



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA  
SEPTEMBER 1976

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510  
VOLUME XIX, No. 9

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, September 15, 1976, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage, Alaska. Following the business meeting Dick TERO will present a slide show on kayaking and hiking in the Alsek Region. Only four groups are known to have done the very dangerous Alsek River. Dr. Blackadar from Idaho is the only person who has run the Turn Back Canyon portion of the River. (Coming soon at an MCA meeting will be a film by Dr. Blackadar, edited by TOM MEACHAM and DICK TERO, of the third trip through Devil's Canyon. This film will be shown in the spring on Wide World of Sports.)

\*\*\*\*\*

### HIKING SCHEDULE

Sunday                      RABBIT LAKE. Leader, DONA AGOSTI. For information, call DONA at  
September 12              279-4901.

Hikes for the remainder of September will be announced at the September 15 meeting.

### CLIMBING SCHEDULE

Climbs for the month of September will be announced at the September meeting of the MCA.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAVID NEWCOMBE, 2023 Belair Drive, 279-4993, has succeeded JOHN DOTTEN as Equipment Chairman. Members are requested to cooperate with DAVID by returning equipment on schedule. Any equipment presently checked out should be returned to DAVID.

A speaker has been requested by the Program Director, YMCA, to make a presentation summarizing MCA organization and activities. Anyone willing to assist in such presentation please call BILL STIVERS, 277-2869.

Nominations for the October elections are being accepted. Please call BILL STIVERS. Nominations received to date are as follows:

President:	None
Vice-President:	JOHN PINAMONT
Secretary:	DAVID NEWCOMBE
Treasurer:	JAN LEVKE
Board Member:	BILL QUIRK
Board Member:	TERRY REES

\*\*\*\*\*

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

Wednesday, August 18, 1976, 8 PM, Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third and Eagle, Anchorage.

The meeting was called to order shortly after 8 PM by President BILL STIVERS. BRADFORD WASHBURN and ROD WILSON were introduced at the meeting as honored guests. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The Treasurer's Report showed approximately \$860 in savings and checking. There were no climbing or hiking reports. The Conservation Committee nominated DEE FRANKFORTH for TOM MEACHAM's position on the Game Board.

It was announced that FRITZ RIEGER testified at the Haul Road Hearing. The final decision concerning the road was that the road shall be used only for construction and maintenance, etc.

Presidential and Vice-Presidential nominations are needed for the upcoming October election.

TERRY BECKER announced that he is organizing an MCA Ice Climbing School. There will be two sessions this year due to the large turnout last winter.

ROGER FORD announced that he is preparing a special book on knots and that he would appreciate any information on knots from other members.

BILL QUIRK said that he has some information concerning Mt. McKinley rules and legislation.

After the break for refreshments, BRADFORD WASHBURN and ROD WILSON were presented with lifetime honorary membership certificates for the Club. MR. WASHBURN then gave a very interesting talk about his various climbing trips and his views concerning the recent accidents on Mt. McKinley. The talk was followed by a question and answer period during which TOM MEACHAM acted as moderator.

The meeting was adjourned.

DAVID NEWCOMBE,  
Secretary

tnk

\*\*\*\*\*

ICE CLIMBING SCHOOL

Due to the large number of people who signed up last January, we decided to offer two technical ice courses this year. To take advantage of the warmer weather and longer light, the first will be held in September while the second will be in December or January.

The course will involve climbing ice over 65° using various hand tools and 12-point crampons and utilizing the latest techniques. No basic glacial travel techniques will be taught. A basic level of mountaineering skills and a knowledge of belaying and rappelling are suggested but not required. Required equipment includes 12-point crampons, helmet, swami belt and curved pick ice axe and two or three carabiners.

There will be an obligatory classroom session at 8 PM, Thursday, September 23, at AMH, 2633 Spenard Road. Please bring boots and crampons and helmet so we can check fit and suitability. The on-ice session will be Sunday, September 26, at the Matakuska Glacier. The time will be determined at the class session. All handtools will be provided, but if you have a nammer, bring it along. Sign up at the September meeting. For information, call TERRY BECKER, 272-1811 (AMH). There will be a limit of four people per instructor. \*\*\*\*\*

NEW ROUTES IN THE LOCAL CHUGACH

by Brian Okonek

South Face of Yukla. After a brisk 11 mile hike up Eagle River and into the hanging valley south of Yukla (7535'), P. J. STUART, DIRK BODNAR and I were at the foot of Yukla's 4000' south face. Luckily for us, when we first arrived, it was clear and we were able to pick out what looked like a continuous gully system up the broken face. We dropped our overnight gear at the last tundra that carpeted a rock island at the 3000' level, then headed for the summit.

It was May 12, and the snow we found to be in perfect shape in the below freezing temperatures. This greatly helped us, for it made the route climbable; in the wrong conditions the 4000' gully wouldn't be at all safe. Up we went, kicking steps through narrowing rock walls, skirting waterfalls of ice, and scrambling up two rock bands in the clouds and now falling snow. The gully, which averaged 45°, was really fun since we could never tell if it'd go until it went. Corners and rock walls and mist were always blocking our views. Twelve hours after leaving the Paradise Haven parking lot we gained the top of Yukla's east summit--at the time we didn't know where we were; but the clouds soon blew off and let us have a peek around enabling us to see the higher west summit. We scurried over to it, found a cairn in the snow, and soon had the register out.

Our ascent was the third of the peak. Most likely it is the easiest way to climb Yukla since we encountered no alder such as ART DAVIDSON's 1964 first ascent via Icicle Glacier, and we had a shorter approach than ROBIN BOWEN's 1974 second ascent via the Eklutna Glacier. We had a quick descent, finding ways around both rock bands, and were soon cooking up brews back at our tundra camp.

We had no tent and awoke in the morning covered with snow and buffeted by wind. But it was great--we love nature in all her outfits. On the way out we watched a winter's hungry black bear chase five sheep without any luck. I must admit--like Romans cheering on Gladiators, we found ourselves rooting for the bears!

Northwest Face of Eagle. We had a perfect day for walking in. The sun was hot; all we had on were shorts and running shoes; the rest was on our backs, but it hardly mattered--the day was great! Spring was starting to show itself as new sprouts shoved themselves from beneath old leaves and the hills showed a faint tinge of green. The snow hadn't started to melt in fury high up yet, so Eagle River was easily crossed right where the trail wanders away from the river toward Dew Mound. So hot was it that MATT DONOHOE couldn't resist the eye for a quick swim in one of the river's many pools; VAUGHAN HOEFLE, DIRK BODNAR, and I opted to sit this one out on a boulder. Unhurriedly we made our way up river to the creek that drains the cirque north of Eagle Peak (6955'). Here we got a most pleasant surprise, the creek was still frozen over and made for a perfectly fantastic sidewalk up through the millions of alders. We walked in running shoes until the steepness increased to the point that we had to don boots, crampons, and axes. Soon we were into the cirque where the sun lured us to a stop, but shadows pushed us on soon after we had lain down in the tundra. Once again we camped on the last outpost of tundra, this time at 3700'. We sat in our bags, watching the lights down in Eagle River slowly come on one by one, full and content til we fell asleep.

We awoke at 3 AM May 18 under overcast skies. I emptied my boots of spindrift, aroused the others, and by 3:20 we were on our way. The snow was rock hard and there was ice in the runnels, so we found the climbing extremely fast. We went up the main central couloir on the north face, which intersects with an arete 800' below the summit. The wind was blowing spin drift avalanches off the upper snow slopes and down into our couloir; they only added to the alpine feeling. We hurried up, racing with the rising sun that would bring down avalanches. At the top of the couloir we kicked steps up a fluting to the summit rock, then scrambled

## NORTHWEST FACE OF EAGLE continued.

up this to the summit cornice arriving at 5:45 AM. It was too cold and windy to linger long, so we hurried down in anticipation of breakfast. But, wouldn't you know it, the stove was out of gas, and we had no extra, so gorp had to suffice. Oh, well, we survived, and even had an enjoyable hike out.

West Ridge of Beelzebub. After doing the west ridge of Peril Peak, DICK GRIFFITH and I moved our camp further up the West Fork of Eklutna Glacier to the base of Beelzebub (7280'). By 7:00 AM on June 15 we were kicking steps up a 50° snow slope at the west end of the west ridge. This snow slope puts one in a notch on the ridge; we climbed directly up a rock step out of it, but this step can be skirted by traversing over the saddle and down the south side of the ridge a little way before heading up the west ridge. The ridge was corniced to the north, so we were forced to stay on the south slope cutting up along fairly steep snow. The first rock step, which had looked hard from below, went easily; we didn't bother to rope up until we hit a series of gendarmes at 7000'. Here we belayed for 5 pitches over easy, but scratchy, exposed rock. Portable holds were plentiful! From there it was an easy scramble to the summit. It was a grand panorama that met our eyes, for none of the Chugach was in cloud. We lay around on the summit enjoying the sun and view and signing our second ascent into the register put there by DAVIDSON's 1965 party. Finally, gathering clouds toward Anchorage and smoke rising from a fire in Eagle River stirred us to descend. By 2:30 we were back at camp after a grand day up on the ridge.

Southeast Face of Bellicose. Right after climbing Beelzebub DICK and I moved our camp down glacier to the southern base of Bellicose (7640'). We had spotted a nice gully system cutting up the southeast face that was some 3000' high. During the day it constantly rumbled with the sound of heavy spring avalanching, and the clatter of rocks, but at night it settled down and was quiet. Our plan was for an early start and fast climbing so that we could summit, then be off the mountain before the break of day.

We awoke at 1 AM--decided to go back to sleep and wait awhile. We woke again at 3:00 and decided this was it--now or never. We began walking by 3:35. It took an hour for us to get up the first broad slopes and gain the gully, most of which was across avalanche rubble. There was a waterfall right at the beginning that we were able to skirt on the rock. Then, into the gully again, right in the bottom of a seven foot deep runnel with an ice bottom. Crampons went on and stayed on for we hit excellent hard snow and water ice all the way up. We continued climbing rock steps to get around flowing waterfalls, front pointing up some nice sections of water ice, and kicking steps up snow slopes. The gully's average angle was just over 45°. We climbed into the clouds and lost our views and started wondering where on the face we were since we had to change to a different gully three-fourths of the way up. We guessed right, however, and hit the summit scree slope and then the summit at 6:10. It was cloudy and windy and rime was forming on everything. No cairn, so we built one, added a register, then hurriedly started our descent. We wanted to get down before the unseen sun started warming things. We got back to camp in lowering clouds and rain. Luckily we had used the good weather to our advantage.

\*\*\*\*\*

MCA BROOKS RANGE HIKE  
July 29 - August 7, 1976  
by Dona Agosti

Just how does one describe his ultimate backpacking experience? Ten days in the wilderness of the Brooks Range will be a hard act to follow for six MCAers--BEV DODGE, PAT KAMPFER, ROSEMARY KOBUS, MIKE McCLELLAND, MERRILYN SWANSON and leader,

## MCA BROOKS RANGE HIKE continued.

DONA AGOSTI. In planning since January, it was a relief to board Wien at 8:30 AM July 29. After a wait in Fairbanks, we boarded Wien for Bettles, but not before the usual hassle over gas cans--this time an empty Blazo can which had to be "purged" before we boarded. It was fascinating to inspect pipeline progress beneath us en route to Bettles. We arrived at 2 PM and met MCAer AL WORLAND and friend on their way out. We also learned that JOHN LYON of Reed College had beat us to the draw on reservations for DON COGGER's Frontier Air float plane (ours had been made in early spring). The wait turned out to be a disadvantage because rain moved in and DON was unable to get us out to Takahula Lake that night. We were offered the bunk room free of charge, however, and the wait gave us a chance to meet interesting locals--geologists, helicopter pilots, guides, and other hikers. We talked at length with RAY BANE, Environmental Planner for the National Park Service and discussed the boundaries of the Gates of the Arctic. He asked that we complete lengthy questionnaires on our return, which we did. We talked about our relatively new route--Takahula Lake, up the Takahula River, through a pass to 4662, up a second valley to Alpine lakes beneath 4770, then over to Arrigetch Valley.

By 10:30 the next morning the six of us had been ferried into Takahula in two flights. (TOM MEACHAM's report of the takeoff thrills on the Koyokuk were well-founded.) We landed near Peak 3630 across the lake from BUD and CONNIE HELMERICH's cabin which TOM had asked us to photograph. We headed for a high point on the ridge to the west. I hung a cache of food from the limb of a birch tree and we proceeded south and west across tussocks and through spruce and birch around the slope of 3630 towards Takahula River. (I have numbered sections on the Survey Pass map beginning at the upper left corner and from left to right only. Takahula Lake is located in Section 107.) Although not shown on the map, there is a stream entering Takahula River from the valley to the north between 3630 and the "Ridge of the 3 Peaks." We lunched here and noted that it was a good camp site. After observing that the river hugged high cliffs on the right about a half mile ahead, we crossed the stream entering Takahula and picked an easy route to the top of the ridge (about 1800 feet). We named it Sheep Point having found evidence of that species. Here we polled opinion as to whether we should descend to the river and cross to the other side of the Takahula where hiking appeared brush free, or start climbing toward the "Ridge of 3 Peaks." Since we'd had a late start and there was no assurance of water at the top of the ridge, we voted in favor of descent and a hike upstream to a point opposite the valley we planned to ascend the next day. Takahula was moderately fast and knee deep, but no problem, and hiking on the opposite bank was a breeze. The sound of rushing water and mountains around us made this a restful campsite. At 8 AM the next morning we were recrossing the Takahula and climbing northwest to the pass. We hoped to reach 4662 Creek by night. The ascent began innocently enough through sparse spruce and moss carpet, but soon deteriorated to a bushwhacking nightmare. We were following a moose trail through willow, but the trees had outnumbered the moose. During a rest stop we watched a giant grizzly scrambling with fantastic speed up the slope across the valley. This didn't ease our anxiety as we pushed aside willow and alder. We also observed an unusually colored moose casually walk away from us. Finally, just after lunch at the junction of the unmapped valley stream and another unmapped stream entering from the west, we reached the pass. The mile or so of bog barely phased us, we were so glad to be rid of brush. The descent to 4662 was part moose trail and part brush and probably seemed more difficult than it really was because we were so tired--and the 75° heat was unbelievable. We crossed what we thought was a braid of 4662 only to discover that it was 4662. The leader chose this occasion to record her first creek fall in 1200 miles of backpacking. The others crossed the thigh high water with finesse. There was record-breaking disappearance into tents that night with one or two considering helicopter evacuation.

## MCA BROOKS RANGE HIKE continued.

In contrast, the next day was an exceedingly lucky one. We proceeded northwest leaving 4662 Creek at a point about opposite the large unnamed stream which enters 4662 from the southwest. (We named it SADMKK--a corny combination of letters from our names.) By a stroke of luck, we found a well-worn game trail which gained us a thousand feet in record time. After a rest stop to view the 4662 valley, we made another lucky decision. The ridge bordered a stream filled with moderately sized boulder "steps" and low water. Since the sun was already beating down at a debilitating rate, we welcomed the natural air conditioning of this stream bed which we followed for several miles to a point above timberline where the stream poured over a stone waterfall from the upper valley. We then worked our way west and north around the high point (upper right corner of Section 106). Because the Survey Pass map is so difficult to read, we were fooled into thinking that the first large ravine we reached was the deep gorge shown near the 3000 foot figure in upper middle section 106. When we rounded a ridge, hot and exhausted at 5 PM, expecting to find our long-awaited lake, we discovered only the valley mentioned. MIKE and MERRILYN were so curious that they asked leave to go on to find the lake. The rest of us camped at the head of this valley and were amply rewarded with a stunning view of half the Arrigetch Peak skyline--those peaks surrounding the 4662 headwater cirque. At this time we were still too disoriented to apply the peak names as proposed by the Hampshire College group in the 1975 Alpine Journal. On our return, however, we identified with ease from right to left Citadel, Disneyland (it really looks like the Disney castle logo), Bodile, Wichman Tower, Independence Pass, Locomotive, Pyramid, Arthur Emmons and Shot Tower. The view was well-photographed in all light including sunset and 5 AM sunrise. It was an overwhelming sight and half of what we'd come to see. The next morning we were moving by 7 AM, anxious to catch up with MIKE and MERRILYN. 45 minutes later we reached the shores of the elusive alpine tarn. MERRILYN and MIKE, our strongest hikers, elected to look over the Arrigetch Valley. In no time, camp resembled a McKinley expedition or a big city slum, whichever you prefer, with laundry flying from contrived clothes lines. Appreciative bathers found the lake ample reward after the extreme heat of the previous day. After chores the four of us explored the imposing granite-walled cirque and the other two lakes south of camp. Wild flowers gave evidence of late snow melt--in fact, two snowfields remained, but this was one of the few signs of snow we saw on our entire trip. MERRILYN and MIKE returned almost 10 hours later after a marathon hike over the ridge of our Valley of Three Lakes into the Valley of Two Lakes and over that ridge into the Arrigetch Valley. They hiked up valley beyond the well-used but deserted camp at the junction of Aquarius and Arrigetch pursuing an elusive view of the peaks. They returned by an arduous route downstream via a good moose trail, then over low points of all these ridges and back to camp via the dried-up stream which flowed out of our valley. This latter route from Arrigetch Valley is deceiving on the map--it is much longer than it appears. After their account of the day's hike I was more eager than ever to see the Arrigetch Valley. MERRILYN agreed to accompany me the next day. The others chose to climb peak 4770. MERRILYN and I worked southwest of our Lake No. 1 to a point between Lake No. 2 and Lake No. 3 which provided an easy vegetation climb to Ridge 1. Working northwest down across rock and vegetation to the floor of the Valley of 2 Lakes, we crossed the low stream and planned to ascend at the low point on the ridge where MERRILYN and MIKE had crossed the previous day. As we were nearing the first stream off the west ridge, we looked at each other and said, "Let's." This was another of the many lucky choices of our trip. Not only was it an easy, although steep, ascent route, but it brought us to the highest point on the ridge, about 4500 feet. We gasped as we came over the top and there in front of us was the stupendous valley of the Arrigetch with all peaks fully etched against the skyline. The view had not presented itself the previous day when MERRILYN and MIKE had crossed the ridge much lower, and neither was it visible from the valley floor. We were almost speechless with surprise, but soon pondered our maps and the Alpine Journal sketch as well as Scree articles by TOM MEACHAM and BILL BRANT in order to identify peaks and ridges. We liked BILL

MCA BROOKS RANGE HIKE continued.

BRANT's "Turkey Bluff" for the granite tailfeathers division at Aquarius Creek. We thought Termination Peak aptly named. But overpowering all its subordinates was Xanadu (7190 or ca 7500 depending on whom you read). We were able to identify its underlings, Caliban, Melting Tower, and the Maidens; Parabola and Leming peaks elude us. Visible far below on the valley floor was the junction camp. Far to the northeast and northwest, the triangles of the Brooks rose in endless procession. But these granite spires, so unique among surrounding peaks, held us fascinated. This was the last of what we had come to see and the discomforts of the sometimes grueling hiking faded as we observed the exhilarating scene around us.

Our companions expressed similar views when we heard about their climb to 4770. They, too, had been able to view the Arrigetch Ridge from that vantage point and PAT described it as her "first 360." From their point they could also see northeast towards the Alatna Valley. BEV had been similarly impressed with her hike towards the Arrigetch Valley via the lower ridge route. It was an elated scene in camp that night. Prolonging the mood, all but one tired leader sought out a previously undiscovered snow-filled cirque and lake just above camp and the evening became one long snowball fight. This was also the day we met our first humans, a couple who had arrived a month before and were concerned about what day it was. We repeatedly assured them it was Tuesday, not Sunday, and they scurried to keep their pickup rendezvous at Circle Lake.

We sadly and reluctantly left our alpine meadow the next morning, stopped briefly to get a group picture in front of the 4662 cirque, then, staying much higher than we had on our incoming trip we quickly reached the creekbed at the same point we had ascended several days earlier. We were all quite surprised at the shorter time involved by staying high. The rock hop down was not as difficult as we had anticipated. We lunched at a bend in the stream near an icefield which was just below the ridge we had descended to the creek bed on our incoming trip. All cooling effects were eagerly sought in this most unusual "Arctic" weather. A short walk downstream we regained our moose trail and were at 4662 opposite the SADMKK in record time, 6 hours as compared to 9. A young black bear in camp provided the night's conversation. All of us will remember forever PAT's words intended to scare the cub away from MERRILYN's tent (in which she was sponge bathing at the time). Said PAT, "Shoo-Shoo!" The rest of us reading in our tents assumed that PAT was urging a porcupine to depart. ROSEMARY rose to the occasion and numbly blew her whistle, which caused the little fellow to go find mama. She remained in a trance-like state, whistle poised, until she was sure mama was not coming back to check on her offspring's wild tale. Needless to say, the trees were alive with food caches that night.

At 7 AM the next morning we crossed braids of 4662, then the SADMKK with seemingly no advantage. The group agreed that getting it all over with one crossing of 4662 was superior and just as easy. We angled southeast to the ridge at 3000 feet and this time found a better game trail avoiding some of the entangling alder of our descent. The top of the ridge was pure delight, breezy, bugless, boggling, and for PAT another 360. Far to the north were the endless pyramids of the Brooks; ahead of us the Alatna, Takahula Lake, the Iniakuk; off to our right the Takahula headwaters and cirque. Across the valley to the west were the willows of our second day of discontent. We vowed to tell everyone that this ridge route was by far the better access from Takahula Lake to 4662 valley. Our southeasterly trek down from the most westerly of the three ridge peaks shown on the map, towards Takahula River and "Sheep Point" was an easy moose trail save for crossing one willow-infested creek. However, our aim was bad and we had difficulty getting off the ridge near Sheep Point. Future hikers would do well to veer more easterly towards the point where the valley stream enters Takahula River at the base of 3630.



## MCA BROOKS RANGE HIKE continued.

This limestone face presents an almost Yosemite-like appearance to the dwarfed camper at its base. Ours was a jolly camp that night--not only was it an ideal location with ideal weather, but all were experiencing elation at having accomplished a challenging route.

The next afternoon in sweltering heat we climbed from the Takahula River bed to the high point we had left such a long time ago. Surprisingly, our food cache was intact, untouched by ravens, bears, porcupines, et al, and we enjoyed the goodies therein. The lake was warm and pleasant for bathing, although walking in it was confined to the rock bottom or risk of being lost forever in the mud. MERRILYN tried to fulfill our promise to TOM MEACHAM to photograph the HELMERICH cabin. TOM had been intrigued by DAVE ROBERT's account of the welcome sign on the door. MERRILYN chose a southeasterly route around the lake but was stopped by a wide stream flowing out (or in) to the south. Lucky for her that she chose this route because shortly after her departure we observed a black bear scurrying along the shore on the north side of the lake. Probably just as well she didn't reach the cabin--it would have signified the passing of an era for us Alaskans. We heard that the welcome sign has now been replaced with a padlock. The lake was alive with three tourists as well.

DON COGGER's arrival at 10 the next morning brought our adventure to an end. Back at Bettles, we exchanged stories with our lodge friends and showed the Alpine Journal sketch to a very perplexed and surprised guide, DAVE SCHMITZ of Sourdough Outfitters. It was then that we heard a more detailed report of the Hampshire College expedition, including injuries sustained by one female member who refused evacuation and hobbled out. We compared notes once more with geologists and hikers and left with the smug feeling that we had chosen a route somewhat different than previous groups who ordinarily land on Circle Lake.

For the statistic minded, the cost of our round trip to Bettles was \$153.72. The cessna 185 float plane carries three passengers with gear for \$126.00 per hour. Round trip is approximately 2.4 hours. Our fly-in and pickup averaged out to \$102.90 per person. White gas is 75 cents per gallon. Lunch at the lodge is \$6.00, family style dinner \$9.00. Bettles has a good grocery store. Literature: "Alaska Wilderness" by ROBERT MARSHALL; American Alpine Journal 1975; SCREE, October 1974 and September 1975, and numerous other books.

This ten-day trek was a time of contrast: first, the shock of finding how stereotyped were our definitions of Arctic, that we, like any tourist, had not comprehended that South Slope and North Slope are two worlds and that north of the Arctic Circle does not necessarily mean treeless, frozen tundra. The brush battle provided contrast with the barren mountain tops; a precarious stream crossing with a good-for-climbing creek bed; eight straight days of sunshine and 80° temperatures with the recorded all-time Alaska low of -80° at Prospect Camp just to the south. We learned that it is very difficult to navigate with a 1:250000 scale map and urgently recommend that USGS proceed with due haste to prepare larger scale maps. We learned that almost every valley has a stream even though not shown.

Our party left the Brooks Range feeling that the Head Doonerak had shown us tremendous hospitality, and we add our "Amen" to TOM MEACHAM's assessment: "Such an experience must be felt at least once in a lifetime" by everyone.

\*\*\*\*\*

SUSAN HAVEND, GORDEAN HARPER, DON PAHLKE, JOHN DILLMAN climbed Mt. Sanford, 16237', in the Wrangell Mountains on August 14. They walked in from the Copper River 30 miles to the base of the mountain. The round trip required 11 days.

\*\*\*\*\*



## MATANUSKA PEAK (MT. VIGOR) 6119'

August 14, 1976

by David Newcombe.

CHUCK HELLER, ELLEN DUFRES, WES HOWE, BILL STIVERS, and DAVID NEWCOMBE started up Lazy Mountain en route to Matanuska Peak at about 7:30 AM. By 9:30 we were over Lazy Mountain and were ready to start hiking the ridge leading toward the summit.

The weather was cloudy overhead with lower clouds rolling up the valleys. On the climb to the summit the clouds caught up with us and covered the view for the rest of the day. We reached the summit at 2 PM and took a long rest before the descent. We departed the summit as soon as the wind came up and the temperature started to drop. During our descent we managed to get lost temporarily after going down a ridge that heads towards the bottom of the valley between Lazy Mountain and Matanuska Peak. However, we were soon back onto the correct route to Lazy Mountain. Finding the trail down from Lazy Mountain proved to be another problem. We somehow found ourselves on the north side of Lazy Mountain instead of the west side where the trail was supposed to be. After a bit of searching in the right (?) direction, we found the trail and the way back down to the cars.

\*\*\*\*\*

KNOT COMMENTS AND MOUNT EVEREST NOTES

solicited by David Newcombe from Rev. Roger Ford.

Any information or comments which you may have on climbing knots or knots of any profession or trade, including knots on karabiners and equipment that you think might be of interest, please do not hesitate to write a note to ROGER FORD. This is a major study by a technical climber which is presently being considered by a famous university as a thesis. All comments or problems are welcome.

The Rev. Roger Ford was officially approved by the U.S. Government to solo Mt. Everest as a climax to the Bicentennial. France gave their Mt. Everest permit to Rev. Ford as part of the Bicentennial at the request of the U.S. Government. Then the U.S. Government asked the King of Nepal to issue the solo permit. The King refused, stating a minimum of four climbers would be required for safety. The permit was then negotiated between Washington, D.C., and Nepal out of the control of Rev. Ford by a Harvard Attorney in the U.S. State Department, who obtained the permit for himself and his friend in Nepal as a team permit. Rev. Ford had then planned to lead an Alaskan team on the first truly winter expedition of Mt. Everest. That team, as submitted to Nepal were the following, with others to be added later: CHARLES HOSTETLER, WILLIAM BRANT, THOMAS ROSS, JAMES HALE, GEORGE STRANSKY.

Please send knot information to REV. ROGER FORD at 2019 Saratoga Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99503, or to his permanent address: P.O. Box 45, Beverly Hills, California 90213.

\*\*\*\*\*

FOR SALE

Class 5 mountaineering parka. It has 4 pockets, two-way zippers, and has only been used 3 times. Size, large. \$47.00.  
Windbreaker made of ripstop nylon. Size, large. \$7.00.  
Down vest; good shape. Size, medium. \$15.00.  
Call BRAD CRAIG, 344-2969 after 6:30 PM.

\*\*\*\*\*

More articles were submitted this month than could be printed in a maximum 10 page issue. These will be included next month: Benign Peak; Hatcher Pass to Houston.