

Circumference of Mt. Hayes

Kansai University Alaska Expedition, 1971

In 1965 our university dispatched the academic expedition party to Peru Andes. From that time we had been hoping to hold the next expedition.

Our club decided to send a climbing party to Alaska and the destination in Alaska was selected in last year. It was the eastern part of the Alaska-Range, especially the region of the neighboring Mt. Hayes.

Mt. Hayes is the highest mountain in the eastern part of the Alaska-Range. It had been climbed from north-ridge by Dr. Washburn's party in 1941. Our purposes were to climb Mt. Hayes by the east or south ridges (both of these ridges have not been climbed before), and reconnaissance about Susitna Glacier and its circumference.

Our party was composed of five members. They were Tsutomu Nakano (28), Yoshimi Miyamoto (25), Hajime Naemura (22), Hiroshi Anzawa (22) and Shigefumi Matsumoto (21).

On the 9th of June, we arrived at Anchorage with our 230 kg's of baggages. For six days, we prepared our expedition in Anchorage. On the 15th of June, in the morning we left Anchorage for Paxson by bus. Our tent was set up on the edge of the air-field of Paxson that day.

On the next day's morning Mr. Sheldon's plain came from Tarkeetna. His Cesna took off from Paxson with three passengers

(Nakano, Miyamoto, Matsumoto) and about 100 kg's of baggages. They flew towards Mt. Hayes. But the plain could not came back to Paxson that day.

It was blown up-side down and destroied by strong-wind when it landed on the Glacer. Fortunately all were safe. At mid-night, our pilot was helpted by an army helicopter.

Our three members stayed there in order to climb the mountain. They were waiting for the another two members to come. The pilot tried to land again with his Piper, but the place was too dangerous.

Meanwhile the advanced party suffered from shortage of food and gasoline. On the 22th of June, we supplied foods, gasoline and another baggages by air drop. In the day the two remaining members (Naemura and Anzawa) landed on the devider of Susitna Gl. and Brack Rapids Gl.

They went to the Base Camp by foot on the Susitna Gl. The advanced party came down to meet them. We met each other at the junction of the branch of Sustina Gl. and the main course of Sustina Gl. after an interval of one week.

On the 24th of June, we went up the branch of Sustina Gl. again. There were many crevices in the Glacier. It was a very dangerous approach. We arrived at our Base Camp at evening. Our tents had been set up beside the Cesna.

After a discussion we decided what to do from next day.

On the 26th of June, we began at first to climb PK. 12,360 feet which is the east part of Mt. Hayes. We established Camp I

on the col of between PK. 10,300 feet and PK. 10,232 feet on the next day. From the next day we had snow for four days.

On the 2nd of July, we fixed ropes about 250 feet on the steep ice slope. We established our Attack Camp on the next small col of between PK. 10,232 feet and PK. 12,261 feet.

Two attack members (Miyamoto and Maemura) stayed there. But it became bad weather for three days so we supplied foods for the attack party on the 5th of July. That day, all of us climbed the PK. 10,232 feet. Next day it was a fine day for attack the mountain. They started from the Attack Camp at six O'clock A.M.

They stood on the top of PK. 12,261 feet at 12 O'clock. Then they passed a narrow ridge to the next peek, and they reached the summit of PK. 12,360 feet at 2 : 25 P.M. They came back to their Attack Camp at 7 : 25 P.M. Their trip lasted over 13 hours.

Next day, after they had come back, the two other members (Anzawa, Matsumoto) left Camp I to climb PK. 10,300 ft. They passed a narrow snow ridge and an ice wall, and climbed the peak. We set off from our Camp I, and came back to our Base Camp on the 8th of July.

The next morning we started to move our Base Camp to under the south ridge of Mt. Hayes. It took two days.

On the 11th of July, two members (Miyamoto, Anzawa) began to climb that ridge to establish the route. They reached a snow self after climbing about 1,500 feet.

They were caught in a rain, so they came back to the Base Camp. But our route was very dangerous, for there were dangerous

hanging glaciers on the ridge. Broken pieces of ice and rock were always falling down and across our route.

From the next day the weather became bad. Bad weather continued for a week. Every day we had snow and mist. So we must give up climbing Mt. Hayes.

On the 18th of July we began to go back to the "pick up place" which was the devider of Susitna Gl. and Brack Rapids Gl. We could see the clear blue sky after a week. But the fine weather became again cloudy in the afternoon. The Glacier condition changed to the worse.

There were more crevices, and they opened wider. But while we were approaching the junction the snow on the Clacier had been melted, we could see the ice again. So we could find the crevices easily. The main stream of Susitna Gl. had only few crevice.

There was a stream on the ice of Glacier.

From next day we had bad weather again. We had almost rain every day.

As we should have been picked up by the Sheldon's plane on the 27th of July, we must reached the place before the appointed day.

Before "the pick-up day" we reached our "pick-up place" which was the top of the Susitna Gl. and Brack Rapids Gl. But we could not get a fine day.

After three days, all of us came back to the Brack Rapids airfield.

Kansai University Expedition Club

Tsutomu Nakano