Climbs and Expeditions

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE. *The American Alpine Club is very grateful to all those who have contributed information, especially to this section. It is impossible to mention all who have been helpful, but special thanks to non-members for many years of assistance are given to Mr. Ichiro Yoshizawa, Sr. César Morales Arnao, Dr. G. O. Dyhrenfurth, Dr. Adolf Diemberger and countless other friends.*

UNITED STATES

Alaska

Mount McKinley. Aside from the climbs noted elsewhere in this *Journal,* the following ascents were made of the main or south summit: *International Alaska Expedition,* J. Richard Hechtel, Kurt Bittlingmaier, Peter Hennig, Lowell Smith, Bernhard Segger on May 4 via West Buttress; *Minnesota McKinley Expedition,* Roland Fleck, Robert Stolzenbach, Sven-Olaf Swartling on June 8 and John D. Peterson, Bill Coats, John Frantz on June 9 via West Buttress; *China Lake McKinley Expedition,* Carl Heller, Ernst Bauer, Dennis Burge, Russell O. Huse, James R. Nichols, Charles D. Ringrose, Robert P. Stein, Robert E. Westbrook, Frank G. Buffum, Jr. on July 11 via West Buttress; *Western States McKinley Expedition,* Paul Gerhard, Louis Reichardt, Loyd Price, Roger Derryberry, Peter McGann, Steven Altman on July 27 via West Buttress; *Mountaineering Club of Alaska Expedition,* William H. Babcock, Gayle E. Nienhueser, Chester S. Hackney, Jeff Babcock, John Ireton on July 29 via Muldrow Glacier and Karsten's Ridge.

Mount McKinley Tragedy and Resulting Expedition. Two expeditions, the Colorado Mount McKinley and the Wilcox McKinley expeditions, joined to climb the Karsten's Ridge route. Seven members of the latter died high on the mountain. On July 18 Jerry Clark, Mark McLaughlin, Walter Taylor, Hank James, Dennis Luchterhand and John Russell radioed to Park Rangers from the summit; they had reached the top in a white-out after a bivouac the previous night. They were apparently

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Note: All dates in this section refer to 1967 unless otherwise stated.

caught during their descent by a violent and prolonged storm. A seventh member, Steve Taylor, had remained at their 17,900-foot camp, feeling slightly ill. He also perished, apparently after his tent was destroyed. Five other members, Joseph F. Wilcox, Anshel Schiff, Howard Snyder, Paul Schlichter and Jerry Lewis, had reached the summit on July 15 and had descended to a camp at 15,000 feet on the Harper Glacier to conserve food and fuel at the high camp. They were also struck by the storm, but escaped with exhaustion and minor frostbite. The Mountaineering Club of Alaska Expedition reached the 17,900-foot camp on July 28 and found a single victim there. They found two others just below the Archdeacon's Tower the following day. No identifications were made.

To try to find and bury the bodies and learn how the tragedy occurred, Vin and Grace Hoeman, Ray Genet, Ed Boulton, Chuck Crenchaw and Dick Springgate were flown to the Kahiltna Glacier on August 19. Except for Mrs. Hoeman, they continued up the West Buttress, building snow caves for camps, the highest being at Denali Pass at 18,200 feet on the night of the 26th. Genet and Hoeman descended to near the 17,900-foot camp but found only a few inches of a bamboo pole above the snow, which had been eight feet above the surface a few weeks before. The camp was said to be 200 yards away, but probing was futile. On August 27 Hoeman, Genet, Crenchaw and Springgate headed for the top, which they reached in the afternoon. This was the latest ascent in the year yet made. Although they searched the slopes of the Archdeacon's Tower carefully, no traces of the bodies were found.

Mount McKinley, South Face, Second Ascent of Cassin Route. Kosaku Keira, Akio Kawagoe, Masahiro Shukuin, Yoshitaka Akimoto, Koichi Hirakawa, Tsukasa Yamanaka, Hideki Ujiie and I as leader went from Anchorage to Talkeetna on April 26 and on the same day were airlifted to the southeast fork of the Kahiltna Glacier by Don Sheldon. For the next three days it snowed, but we made our way to Base Camp on the Kahiltna at 8850 feet in a lull. On April 30 it became fine. We finished carrying our equipment, food and fuel, about a ton, to Base Camp by May 5. We made an intermediate camp on the northeast fork of the Kahiltna (10,800 feet) on May 7. From there two men made a safe route through the great crevassed zone. On May 13 we gathered at Camp I (11,500 feet), from which we had to climb the side wall to the central ridge by a 50°, 1000-foot-high ice and rock couloir. Kawagoe and Ujiie needed three days preparing this route. They found ice-covered fixed rope left by the Italian party in 1961 at 12,600 feet. On May 14 and 15 it

snowed, but on the 16th the weather recovered. Seven of us climbed to the site of the 1961 Italian Camp I (13,300 feet), and two stayed in this camp, pitched on a rock band where only two tents could be set up. We found things left by the Italians, a tattered tent, stoves, instant coffee, etc. These two men made the route to Camp II along a difficult knife-edge of ice for several hundred meters. Seven men excepting the leader gathered at Camp II (14,270 feet) on May 21. The next day they left, hoping to make Camp III. They climbed 40° hard snow first but it became too late for the difficult route on the rock and ice wall. Two stayed at the starting point of the wall, while the other five returned to Camp II, which was very dangerous because of heavy drifting snow. On May 23 the two men above tried to climb the ice wall but had to cut steps continuously in hard ice and could climb only eight pitches. That evening the other five men cut a tent platform in the 40° ice at 15,400 feet. Four men stayed in this Camp III. On May 24 they were forced to stay inactive by heavy drifting snow. The leader kept contact with each of the seven men by handy talkies. On May 25 it became good weather. Four men started for the top of Mount McKinley. First they climbed six pitches of ice and rock face by the fixed rope that the two had placed two days before. Then they climbed two pitches of rock wall and reached a firm snow slope. After three easy pitches they reached the site of the Italian Camp III at 17,000 feet. They had taken five hours from their Camp III to this spot. Above, the giant rock wall was awaiting them. They traversed and avoided climbing rock by using an ice couloir, where they were forced to keep some fine balance. After three or four false trials and fifteen hours without rest, they passed this giant wall and reached a big snow slope. At eight P.M. they made a bivouac camp at about 18,000 feet. May 26 was very fine, too, but one climber vomited and lost his appetite. Another had to stay with his sick friend. Kawagoe and Ujiie started for the attack. First they traversed the ice slope for about 400 feet. Next they climbed a snow-covered couloir about 1300 feet high. The two men climbed, wrestling with snow which reached their knees. At twelve noon, troubled by high altitude, they reached the central ridge. After climbing the snow ridge for several hundred meters, they climbed an ice couloir, avoiding the rock ridge. Finally they ascended rock for four pitches. And then they walked in loose snow for an hour to reach the Kahiltna Horn. It was 6:30 P.M. of May 26 when they were on top. After an hour they began to descend. Luckily it stayed good weather for more than 48 hours. They descended carefully to the bivouac camp where their friends were waiting, reaching it at one A.M.

on May 27. That day the four came down to Camp II with the three men from Camp III. The next day they got back to Camp I, where the leader was waiting. On May 30 we reached Base Camp and continued to the landing spot on the southeast fork of the Kahiltna, but the weather became bad and we had to wait until June 6 for Sheldon's plane to pick us up.

TAKAO SASAKI, M.D., *Hokkaido Alpine Association*

P 9290, Kahiltna Glacier. On July 14 Ernst Bauer, Dennis Burge and Carl Heller climbed P 9290 by its southeast ridge. This peak lies southeast of Kahiltna Dome. The climbers had just descended from climbing McKinley by the West Buttress.

West Kahiltna Peak. On May 8, after having climbed McKinley by its West Buttress, the five members in our party—Kurt Bittlingmaier, Peter Hennig, Bernhard Segger, Lowell Smith and myself—returned to Base Camp on the east fork of Kahiltna Glacier. The next day, the seemingly indefatigable Lowell and Kurt set out for an exploration of the southwest face of unclimbed, 12,835-foot West Kahiltna Peak. Since the difficulties of the anticipated route appeared only moderate, we decided to climb the mountain in one day from Base Camp. On May 12 the weather was finally good enough for an attempt. Most of the morning we spent threading our way through the séracs of a wildly cascading icefall. Around noon we reached a broad plateau at 10,000 feet, directly under the south face of West Kahiltna Peak. A steep ice face, interspersed with some rock, separated us from the upper, easier slopes of the mountain. Bernhard, leading all the time, cut with boundless energy innumerable steps into the hardest ice we had ever seen. Progress was agonizingly slow. At eight P.M. the first rope with Bernhard, Lowell and Peter reached the gale-swept summit. Kurt and I had turned back half an hour earlier to avoid a bivouac. We might as well have continued with the others. Coming to the steep part on the way down, we were forced to wait for our friends, who had all the long rappel pickets. By the time we had rappelled 400 feet, it was midnight and almost completely dark. Since we were still high up on the ice face, we decided to wait for the daylight, sitting on a small ledge cut into the steep slope. Next morning we reached Base Camp at eight o'clock. The rest of the day we spent carrying and dragging our 700 pounds of equipment to a point outside the park boundary, where Don Sheldon was authorized to pick us up with his light airplane.

J. RICHARD HECHTEL

P 9625, Alaska Range. Steve Anderson, John Pinamont, Barb and Gerry Roach and I, from Boulder, Colorado, packed over Oaster Pass, across the Muldrow Glacier to the Brooks Glacier. Time was too short for our initial objective, Silverthrone, and so we decided to make the first ascent of P 9625, just south of Ragged and Wedge. On August 14, Steve, John and I made our way through the Mather icefall to pleasant walking up the east Brooks Glacier to the upper part, surrounded by P 9625, Wedge, "Jeff" and "Mutt." (See *A.A.J.*, 1953, 8:3, p. 424.) From there it was easy going, though in blinding blowing snow, to the southeast ridge of P 9625. This knife-edged ridge, which was of astoundingly rotten snow, was followed to the corniced summit.

WILLIAM G. MAY, *Unaffiliated*

Mount Deborah, Attempt on East Buttress. (This extraordinarily difficult climb was also attempted in 1964 by a group from the Harvard Mountaineering Club. See *A.A.J.*, 1965, 14:2, pp. 405-6—*Editor.*) Our expedition got off to a poor start with the loss of a key member, Jim McCarthy, due to a prior non-climbing accident. On June 18 Pete Carmen, Don Jensen, John Hudson, Frank Sarnquist and I were flown in and landed in perfect weather on the glacier southeast of Deborah by the very skillful pilot Denny Thompson. He amazed us by dropping six plane loads of supplies in a hundred-foot diameter on the narrow Deborah-Hess col. The next day we moved up to the base of the 6000-foot face and continued that night up a heavily crevassed area. Two members continued to the col to make sure the airdrop did not get buried by snow. The rest moved loads up and gained the assault shelf (the col) only after three days because of a storm and earthquake (magnitude 5.6 in Fairbanks). After a day of repackaging supplies, it started snowing in the night and continued for the next eight days with a fall of about ten feet. Despite the weather, we continued the climb, moving loads to the base of the ridge and fixing ropes on the buttress. A clearing on the ninth day did not last and that night it resumed snowing very hard, continuing for another eight days. Again in spite of heavy winds, snowfall and unstable conditions, we continued working on the difficult route. After 25 days of almost continuous storm we just got a little higher than the previous attempt and it was apparent that we could not make it up the final two-thirds of the buttress. A climb of this technical difficulty can be made only in a good year, if this ever occurs on this mountain.

ARTHUR GRAN

Mount Hess. The Tokyo University Alaska Expedition consisted of Junji Nakamura, leader, Yoshiharu Mikami, Seiji Okai, Naoyuki Morita, Tadao Inagaki, Osamu Mutsuda, Takashi Hongi and Katsuhiko Denda. On June 18 all members entered the West Fork Glacier and established Base Camp at 6100 feet. After two days of reconnaissance, on June 21 avoiding hidden crevasses, they reached the upper part of the glacier and established Camp I. They later continued up a 40° slope and the last ice wall to the col between Deborah and Hess, on which they pitched Camp II (10,000 feet). On July 4 Matsuda and Hongi, who had been preparing the route, left Camp II at 9:50 A.M. and managed to get to the top of Hess (12,030 feet) at 11:45 P.M. after 14 hours of hard struggle. On the 5th Inagaki and Denda left Camp I and made a new route via the north side of Hess South 3 and a col between Hess South 1 and 2 as far as Hess 1, bivouacking on the way. For lack of time to go on, they returned to Camp II. Also on the 5th the main party of Nakamura, Mikami, Okai and Morita left Camp II for the main peak, crossing Hess West 1 and reaching the col beyond, but an oncoming blizzard forced them to retreat as far as Camp II. On the 12th all assembled without incident at Base Camp. On July 23 they were flown by Piper to Gulkana. Their second aim of climbing Mount Hayes was prevented by bad weather and they decided to make two or three small parties. The party which went to the Eklutna Glacier in the Chugach Mountains had good weather when ascending but after a week of bad weather they began to descend. Unfortunately a slip occurred and Morita and Inagaki were severely injured. (For a full account see *Accidents in North American Mountaineering, 1968.—Editor.*) I do not know about the other small parties' activities but they are unimportant from the mountaineering point of view.

ICHIRO YOSHIZAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

Mount Gerdine. Shinji Kaneko, leader, Seiji Hirokawa, Keichiro Noda, Minoru Tanaka, Tomayasu Yagai and Tatsuo Yoshizawa of Tokyo Electrical Engineering College were flown to 4500 feet on presumably the Triumvirate Glacier on May 24 by Erik Barnes. They climbed Mount Gerdine (11,258 feet), a second ascent and another peak, possibly P 11,150 feet, five miles south of Gerdine. They were flown out again on June 24.

P 8849, Talkeetna Mountains. On May 2 Chuck McLaughlin and I found ourselves on an unnamed glacier northwest of P 8849, the highest point of the Talkeetna Mountains ("Sentry Peak"). Pilot Bob Wood's disappearance had severed our connection with civilization. A hasty conference led to an immediate attempt on the west ridge of P 8849. A combination of deceptive distances, waist-deep snow and heavy surface sloughs slowed progress badly until the ridge crest was reached. Nice cramponning and a 200-foot lead on 50° névé on the icy north face brought us to the moderately shelving snows of the summit cap. The precariously perched summit rocks were reached as a cherry-red sun set behind Mount McKinley to the north close to ten P.M. A dazzling display of the aurora borealis lit our descent to an unpitched camp, where we arrived at one A.M. Good weather through the succeeding days allowed completion of five more climbs in the area, four of them peaks over 8000 feet and one a granite tower. Difficulties encountered hinged primarily on the lengthy approaches with degenerative snow conditions. We climbed the 8100-foot peak a mile northeast of P 8849 via the east face and ridge. We ascended the southern (8100 feet) of the twin peaks a mile southwest of P 8849 and a snow dome of 8000 feet southeast of the latter. We climbed P 8517 two miles south of P 8849 and a granite tower on the end of the long south ridge of P 8849. The pilot's return on May 14 was welcome as heavy black clouds had already obscured the greater portion of this ruggedly beautiful range.

R. N. EMPSON, *Mountaineers*

Talkeetna Range. On October 1 my wife Grace and I made the first ascent of "Hoary Peak" (6057 feet), an important landmark mountain, highest in the Willow Creek drainages. We had walked in ten miles from the Craigie Creek road the day before and made the ascent by way of the gullies on the southeast face. On the way out the same day we climbed "The Hatchethead" (4750 feet), a rock tower of that shape near one of the passes we had to cross.

J. VINCENT HOEMAN

Northwest Chugach. The northwest Chugach is separated from the main range by an 8950-foot untraversed pass between the Marcus Baker and Matanuska glaciers. This elliptical segment of mountains measures 50 miles east to west and 25 miles north to south and contains several nameable 10,000-foot peaks (highest 10,955 feet) as well as one newly

named one, Mount Sergeant Robinson (10,650 feet). However, the highest areas of these mountains have not yet been visited by mountaineers. Although the northern edge of this section of mountains has been known and partially mapped since 1898 and has allured many passers-by since the completion of Glenn Highway in World War II, the Matanuska River has drowned several persons and is an effective barrier to casual summer mountaineering. Bodenburg Butte (881 feet) and Lazy Mountain (3720 feet) at the western end of the ellipse are so easy that their climbs are unrecorded and Matanuska Peak (6119 feet), the first significant mountain eastward was climbed by 1938. (Babcock, Hackney, Ireton and a dog made the first winter ascent March 12, 1967). Kings Mountain (5809 feet) protrudes impressively enough from the northern edge of the range that at least two parties crossed the river to climb it in the 1940s, and more ascents have been made since a toll cable was installed by the lodge at its base. Its first winter ascent was made by Hackney and Ireton in a party led by Babcock on March 4, 1967. Winter mountaineering with the advantage of crossing the Matanuska River on the ice has just caught on this year. On February 12 my wife and I made the first ascent of Pinnacle Mountain (4541 feet) in this manner, our ascent being by the west ridge, and three attempts were made on Peak 8290, which at just six miles from Glenn Highway is the closest mountain over 8000 feet to any road in Alaska, but is, we believe, unclimbed despite the spurious claim of a hunting guide to have "been up their lotsa times and shot a goat right on top." The best and highest climb yet made in these mountains was done July 3 by D. P. Johnston, John Samuelson, and Hans Van der Laan when they made the first ascent of "Skybuster" or "Ice Cream Cone Mountain" (8675 feet) by its northeast ridge, the highest mountain for a dozen miles in any direction. (See account below.) The only named summit in the group not yet mentioned is Mount Wickersham (7415 feet), which is unclimbed though easily accessible by the Matanuska Glacier, but many virgin peaks await worthy climbers and good names.

J. VINCENT HOEMAN

"Ice Cream Cone Mountain," Chugach Range. After a hair-raising crossing of the murky, rushing Matanuska River in a delapidated rowboat, John Samuelson, Hans Van der Laan and I followed fine, three-foot-wide moose freeways up the east fork of Carpenter Creek, over gravel bars and on the second day, still unroped, up the glacier at its head to 6400 feet. We were away from camp at six A.M. on July 3. We climbed for half a

mile diagonally upward on the hanging glacier that clings to the right side of the jagged ridge, then along the ridge except where forced back onto the hanging glacier to avoid the rough crest. Because the 45° ice was overlain with eight inches of snow, we should have belayed. Finally the rock of a steep section melted into the mists above. Below, rock and snow pillars plunged valleyward like the Eigerwand. We dug out our iron and proceeded. A 120-foot pitch over snow and rock led to a 70-foot couloir. I groped up the third lead, having to brush away eight to ten inches of snow to find piton cracks. More of the same led to a 40-foot chimney which split a nearly vertical band of rock. The back wall was ice and offered holds to the crampons we still wore. The side walls, though well iced, offered rock holds. I suppose this section would be F6 under good conditions, but it was more difficult as we found it. After emerging from the chimney, I followed a comparatively gentle snow rib for 50 feet to the level ridge crest. Beyond, the ridge went on endlessly in a series of false summits. We reached the summit (8675 feet) at ten P.M. The wind and wet falling snow that had been with us most of the day increased and so we bivouacked four hours before rappelling to the comfort of high camp. The walk out and the river crossing took two more days. NCCS IV, F6.

DAVID P. JOHNSTON

Mount Gannett, Chugach Range. At first light on March 18 on a completely clear day Gary Hansen, Bill Long, Frank Nosek and I were flown to the upper end of one of the spurs of the Knik Glacier. From our landing spot at 7000 feet we went directly up the northwest ridge of Mount Gannett (9620 feet). A climb of about three miles across firm snow brought us to the summit, where we left a register. Cat-like tracks were seen in the snow heading up to about 8600 feet, but positive identification as to whether they were lynx, wolverine or what was not made. We were back at camp just before sunset but because of the wind we were unable to fly back until the next morning.

HANS R. VAN DER LAAN, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

P 6410, Chugach Range. Karen Courtright and I finally got through irresistible blueberries up the south fork of Eagle River to make on August 26 the first ascent of P 6410 via the southeast ridge. We skirted gendarmes by following a talus shelf and a rotten couloir on the northeast side of the ridge. NCCS II, F5.

DAVID P. JOHNSTON

Climbs in the Wrangell Range. On July 8 a six-man expedition under the leadership of Ed Lane and further consisting of Barbara Lilley, Dick Beach, Wally Henry, Bill Morris and me arrived at Gulkana Airfield, just north of Glennallen. After several days of waiting for weather to clear, Jack Wilson flew us to our main Base Camp at 8100 feet on the snowfield between Sanford and Wrangell. Immediately we began making preparations to climb our primary objectives—a first ascent of P 13,654, a mile-and-a-half south of Sanford, and the first ascent of the south ridge of Mount Sanford (16,237 feet). Camp I was established at 11,150 feet on P 13,654. In the process of trying to establish radio contact, a first ascent of P 11,608 was made on July 13; this lies two-and-a-quarter miles due south of Sanford. The summit of P 13,654 was reached by all six members of the expedition on July 14. Camp II was placed 100 feet below the summit. Radio contact with the outside world was made from there for the one and only time on the expedition. During three days of generally miserable weather, the six of us tried unsuccessfully to establish a route along the mile-long, knife-edged ridge which separates P 13,654 and the south ridge of Sanford. The attempt failed mainly due to the soft snow and large séracs encountered along the ridge, as well as the weather. We returned to Base Camp on July 18 to prepare for the remaining two weeks. We were to attempt a circuit of the area lying south of Base Camp, climb Mount Zanetti[1], traverse the summits of Mount Wrangell and make the first ascent of Mount Jarvis. Shortly after we left Base Camp on July 19, it began to snow heavily and to blow. After finding our route with a compass for several hours, we managed to set up the Logan tent in a crevasse, where we spent the next two nights and a day. On July 21, the weather cleared and we quickly took advantage of the lull to continue our trip. Dropping packs in the saddle between Zanetti and Wrangell, we made the first recorded ascent of Mount Zanetti (13,009 feet). After retrieving our packs, we continued on to the summit plateau of Mount Wrangell. The summit of Wrangell, still giving evidence of volcanic action, yielded a pleasant surprise. We found a U. S. Army research hut

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1. Robert Dunn and Ralph Gray named Mount Zanetti for a Cuban with whom they attended Harvard before the turn of the century. They named it while attempting Mount Wrangell in 1900. (See "Finding a Volcano", *Outing Magazine*, December 1902, 41, pp. 321-2.) The current map misspells it "Zanett" but will be corrected in future printings. Enrique de Cruzat Zanetti was born in Cuba on January 12, 1875. He received from Harvard his A.B. in 1897 and his LL.B. in 1901. He died in 1940. His cousin, J. Enrique Zanetti, states, "He was called 'The Count' at Harvard because he dressed extremely well and had a certain air about him. He and Bobby Dunn were great friends." The *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* said of him after his death, "He will be remembered for his air of distinction. He was one of the most colorful members of the class."

heated by live steam from a crater, where for three days we waited out a storm. Although the outside temperature dropped as low as 9° F., the temperature inside the hut remained a constant 92°. We took advantage of several lulls in the storm to climb two of the five summits of Wrangell (P 13,951 or Crater Summit and P 14,013), southwest and west respectively of the highest summit.[2] The six of us snowshoed from the hut to the saddle between Mount Wrangell and Mount Jarvis (13,421 feet) on July 25. After nearly two days of weathering another storm, Lane, Barbara Lilley, Morris and Beach made the first ascent of Jarvis on July 26. Plans for the other two of us to climb Jarvis on the 27th were interrupted by the abrupt and unexpected arrival of Jack Wilson, who had taken advantage of the prief period of good weather to pick us up a day early.

JOHN P. THORNTON

Attempt on Mount Blackburn. Ascent of Atna Peak. The Toyo University Expedition from Tokyo was led by Hiroichi Yamazaki and further composed of Hiromichi Tanabe, Katsumasa Aoki, Takehisa Shiono, Osamu Iwatake, Kiyoshige Seiryu and Kyoji Matsunaga. After flying from Gulkana to Base Camp on the Nabesna Glacier at 7200 feet on May 4, they established Camps I (10,825 feet) on May 8 and Camp II (12,741 feet) on May 24. On May 27 and 28 the first attempt on the northeast ridge of Blackburn failed. The second attempt on June 2 to 6 also failed. The ridge between Blackburn and Rime Peak (13,680 feet), which is on the northeast ridge, is as sharp as the edge of a knife. They were forced to retreat 2000 feet below the top because of continuous storms. On June 8 Shiono and Seiryu stood on the top of the higher western peak of Atna (13,860 feet; climbed by Keith Hart's party in 1955 and Vin Hoeman's in 1965). Aoki and Matsunaga climbed it the next day. An accident occurred while they were descending. Matsunaga slipped less than 100 feet from the summit and dragged Aoki off, who was 35 feet lower. The roped climbers slid about 1500 feet and then fell some 150 feet directly and finally stopped on the snow slope. At dawn on June 10 Aoki breathed his last

ICHIRO YOSHIZAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

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2. Vin Hoeman has kindly supplied the following information. "Dunn made the first ascent of Mount Wrangell with William Soule on July 30, 1908, but undoubtedly went to the Crater Peak (13,951 feet) and almost surely did not go to the true summit (14,163 feet) over two miles away. I am uncertain who did actually first climb to Wrangell's high point. Possibly members of the 1954 expedition that built the lab. At any rate the highest peak has been reached, as Doug Bingham was there in 1966."

Attempt on Mount Blackburn, Wrangell Range. On June 24 Jack Wilson flew Don Houseley, Jim Scott and me from Chitina and landed us on the Nebesna Glacier at 7300 feet. From there on the north side of Blackburn (16,523 feet) we climbed the lower sections of the northeast ridge. Five days later we were well established on the ridge at 10,000 feet, but reconnaissance of the upper ridge proved that the technical difficulties on that part were too much for our small party. We made an attempt on the north ridge, but were again repelled, this time by the numerous crevasses, "bridged" by a foot of unstable, fresh snow.

ROBERT E. EKSTRAND, *Oregon State University Mountain Club*

Boundary Peaks, Denver and Meade Glaciers, Southeast of Skagway. Twenty straight days of misery were spent by our party on the upper Denver and Meade glaciers from August 19 to September 7. In five horrible days, Ron Miller, Margaret Piggott, Mike Wiley and I reached in a white-out a point on the Denver Glacier that we hoped was at the foot of Boundary Peak 109. We made camp as the first real storm moved in. After three days of blizzard, August 27 broke clear and sunny at ten A.M. Above us was Peak 109. With renewed enthusiasm we climbed its rocky north-northwest ridge, over the north peak and south into a steep notch and then on to the highest point of snow on the 6930-foot south peak for a first ascent. Mike had to return home and we then saw him off the glacier to combat the wilderness for the next several days by himself. That same afternoon we climbed a beautiful 7100-foot peak with a 100-foot rock tower at its summit, down whose eastern and northern aspects cascaded a broken glacier. It is located 2½ miles south of Peak 109. We climbed the steep rock and snow west-northwest ridge. The following day, August 28, we headed north from camp to climb an easy Canadian peak (7150 feet), a mile east of Peak 109. From its south side on the Denver Glacier, we climbed to a high saddle on its southeast ridge and up this long easy rock crest to the top. August 29 was another typically fine day, heavy overcast and light snow. We retraced part of yesterday's route and crossed a low saddle on P 7150's east ridge and from there plodded hour after hour to the east-northeast across an endless white sahara at 5500 feet towards the 7000-foot peak 4½ miles east of Peak 109. We finally reached its virgin summit at five P.M. via the rocky west ridge. On August 31 in threatening weather we left camp for Mount Bagot (also officially designated as Boundary Peak 107). The government boundary description says the mountain

"has three rocky summits or peaks. The west and middle peaks are slightly higher than the east peak, and the west one is divided into two peaklets, of which the eastern one is the boundary peak; elevation 7155 feet." Although it does not specifically say so, one would *expect* the boundary point to be the highest. We gained the north buttress at 4700 feet, nearly its lowest point to the Meade Glacier. After continuing up the buttress and crossing a rocky 5800-foot knoll, we traversed up and right on Bagot's northwest face to the west ridge. A long rock scramble took us over the west peaklet and on shortly to the boundary point on the east peaklet. To our disbelief, 200 yards away and somewhat *higher* was the middle peak, the *true* summit, separated from us by a sharply broken and pinnacled ridge. Careful Brunton pocket transit readings showed the middle peak to be 10 feet higher and in Canada. It was five P.M., we were soaking wet from the rain, nearly numb with the driving wind, and yet we went on. We traversed and descended steep rotten rock on the southeast face, crossed the schrund, and with no trouble reached the higher middle peak at seven P.M. Now came our problem. Rather than reclimb the rotten southeast face, we traversed down around the mountain to regain the west ridge. In thick white-out and darkness, we bypassed the narrow snow finger going up to the ridge and found ourselves hopelessly trapped by cliffs, an icefall, darkness and miserably cold weather. In a survival-size snow cave which it took four hours to dig, we fought off numbness for hour after hour in our cramped positions, waiting for first light to travel. When light came, we had to drive each other to get going, found the snow finger and in six hours of rainy travel got back to camp, where we collapsed for two days in terrible weather. Ron had apparently frostbitten his feet in the bivouac and now had a bad case of emersion foot. For five days he had to force himself, step by step, on hideously painful feet, to follow us across glaciers, down rocks out to civilization. Thanks to medical care the only permanent injury will be inability to withstand cold.

KENNETH C. CARPENTER

South Peak of Mount Ogilvie, Northern Boundary Ranges. On August 29 Alf Pinchak and I made the first ascent of the south peak of Mount Ogilvie (7500 feet). The main peak had previously been ascended. From our camp on a cleaver overlooking the Vaughn Lewis Icefall at 5500 feet, we worked northward through crevasse fields for several miles before reaching the base of a small icefall southeast of the peak. We slowly

climbed this 45° slope on alternating snow and ice. Snow bridges allowed us to cross most of the crevasses, but occasionally we were forced into the ablation moat on the left side of the icefall before we emerged on the crest of the south ridge at 7000 feet. To avoid technical difficulties on imposing gendarmes, we made a long traverse on the east side of the ridge across many large crevasses before we reached a rock gully leading back to the ridge beyond the last gendarme. Half a dozen rope-lengths of class-4 rock brought us to the top of the gully and within 30 minutes we had traversed the snowy ridge to the narrow corniced summit. The ascent required eight hours of continuous roped climbing.

WALTER R. VENNUM, *unaffiliated*

Washington — Cascade Mountains

Mount Rainier, Nisqually Cleaver. On June 19, Fred Dunham and I climbed the ridge separating the Nisqually Icefall and the Nisqually Ice-cliff. We decided to climb the lower Nisqually Chute before traversing to the ridge because rotten, vertical rock at the ridge's base ruled out a direct ascent. Suncupping of the snow in the 45°-50° chute provided a staircase of steps. Just above the chute's narrowest point, we traversed left on snow and over small rock buttresses to the ridge crest. Several small icecliffs on the Nisqually Icefall side of the ridge were bypassed, and we soon reached the ridge's termination at 12,500 feet. A windless and warm day on Rainier's summit climaxed an enjoyable climb.

JAMES F. WICKWIRE

Mount Stuart, South Ridge and Headwall. On May 30, 1966, camp was made on the large alluvial fan in the Ingalls Creek Valley, and from here Darrell Sorenson and I climbed straight toward Mount Stuart's granite summit. We followed the couloir toward the ridge until we got to the headwall of the large glacier cirque basin with its impressive walls. Here several routes showed some promise, but the most direct was picked to get to the summit ridge. At the left of the middle of the cirque wall slabs we followed a large crack with free climbing 5th class on white granite. After a small ledge we ascended some free face-climbing, small chimneys, and a chute onto a large ledge overlooking the west face. With a golden sunset fading on the mountain we had a short slab traverse before scrambling on up the ridge to the summit pyramid and a darkening purple panorama of the mountains surrounding. We then descended in the star-light down the frozen Ulrich's Couloir for 4000 feet with one ice axe

and one pair of crampons, and to camp at midnight. Twenty pitons were used on the ascent of what to us seems to be the most enjoyable south-side route with its combination of ice, snow and good white granite!

PAUL MYHRE, *unattached*

Finger of Fate, South Face. In mid-October 1966, Fred Dunham, Dave Mahre, Tom Hargis and I climbed the 700-foot south face of this prominent spire on the ridge connecting Chimney Rock's north and main peaks. We reached the glacial cirque below the rock face by climbing the Chimney Rock Icefall, a route first climbed by Gene and Bill Prater in 1964. Several pitches in the icefall required difficult moves on hard ice, including one traverse of nearly vertical water ice *inside* a crevasse. On the spire's south face the first three pitches above the glacier proved to be the most difficult. The final five pitches to the notch between the spire and the North Peak were completed on third-class rock. We descended diagonally across the main peak's south face and reached the glacier below in darkness.

JAMES F. WICKWIRE

Symposium Rock, New Practice Area. This newly "discovered" granite buttress rivals the Castle Rock of Tumwater Canyon near Leavenworth. It has been named Symposium Rock and there are a variety of routes on fair to excellent diorite. It is located on the east side of Blewitt Pass Highway across from the Ingalls Creek Valley. Routes vary in length from 200 to 300 feet on the upper rock to one-lead climbs on the lower rock. The routes to date from left to right on the front of the rock are: (1) *Neurotic Route,* F5, climbed in April 1966 by Paul Myhre and B. Nelson; (2) *Central Route,* F6, climbed in April 1966 by Don Cramer and C. Anderson; (3) *Ecstasy Route,* F6, climbed in April 1966 by Paul Myhre and D. Cramer; (4) *Eagles Nest Route,* F7, A-2, climbed in May 1967 by Paul Myhre and R. Oborn; (5) *Psychotic Route,* F6, climbed in April 1966 by Paul Myhre and D. Sorenson. Several good routes on the north and south sides remain to be done, as well as variations.

PAUL MYHRE, *unattached*

Peshastin Pinnacles, Butterbrickle Route on Martian Tower. The south chimney was climbed in April by J. Brottem and me. The route begins at the south notch, climbs across the slab a few feet, and then up to a belay with bolts in place. Climb into and up the chimney to a ledge, and

then up a short face to the summit. Bolts with hangars are in place. About 6 bongs and some medium horizontals were used.

DAVID BECKSTEAD

Rattlesnake Rock, New Routes in Tumwater Canyon. On January 7, Dave Beckstead and I completed the *Wild Flower Route* previously started by Roger Oborn and me. Starting across from and east of Piton Tower, the route goes behind and in a large crack to the top of the block where a short overhang and face are climbed free to Catwalk Ledge. Here it ascends another short overhang and face to another sloping ledge with an aid move, and from there it is class 5 to the top. About 20 pitons are required. The *Catwalk Variation* was climbed in May of the previous year by Beckstead and me starting from the ledge south of the large block across from Piton Tower. It follows a vertical aid crack (A-2) up the wall 30 feet to a foot-wide ledge and traverses left to the Wild Flower Route.

PAUL MYHRE, *unattached*

Castle Rock, North Ridge. This new direct class 5.5 route in the Tumwater Canyon practice area was done in September by Roger Oborn and me, and lies to the left of the Northwind Route. Starting with a strenuous free move to above a small overhang, we then climbed directly up the ridge on class 5 rock toward the large pine which is halfway up the ridge. We then continued upward still keeping left of the Northwind Route. Eight pitons were used. Time: 2 hours.

PAUL MYHRE, *unattached*

Index Town Wall, Waterway Left Route. On July 18, Les Davenport and I completed a route about midway between Beckey's *Town Crier Route* (*A.A.J.*, 1967, 15:2, p. 350) and Jim Madsen and Ron Burghner's *Golden Arch Route,* so named because the route follows the underside of a large prominent arching dihedral in a section of rock colored with golden lichen on the right side of the main wall. Our route followed a series of open-books to the left of a waterway, frequently following knife-blade cracks that were invisible from below even with binoculars. The route finally crossed the waterway on a steep outward sloping ramp. Because of this crossing the route should be attempted only when the waterway is dry. Although the route uses mostly small pitons, knifeblades to stubby angles, a good selection of about 40 pitons including three 2-inch

bongs plus an aluminum block is needed. Seven bolts (with hangers) were placed; three for aid and four for belay anchors. The following is a route description. Starting from the top of a 30-foot class-3 ramp just left of the waterway, we nailed over an overhang and then up a left slopping crack to a vertical crack which is invisible from below. This crack led to a narrow ledge, and the second lead followed this discontinuous ledge to the right. The third lead went up an open book with a bolt about 15 feet above the ledge to a small diamond-shaped overhang, then upwards to a second comfortable ledge. The fourth lead continued up the open book on the left to a bolt at about 50 feet. A 10-foot tension traverse left from this bolt, then a short layback led to a hanging belay in a dihedral. Higher the dihedral became a ramp which crossed the waterway and reached the base of an ideal chimney at the top of the *Golden Arch Route*. From there a class 4 lead reached the top of the wall. NCCS IV, F7, A3.

JAMES A. STODDARD, *University of Washington Climbing Club*

Mount Maude, North Face. Mount Maude's ice-clad north face is belted by an impressive hanging glacier. The most outstanding feature of the face, however, is a steep icefall high on its left side. In 1957, Fred Beckey's party made the first ascent of the north face, climbing a prominent snow couloir on the face's right side. From the Ice Lakes, the Beckey party reached the base of the couloir by traversing west across a snowfield above the hanging glacier. On August 24, after bivouacking in the upper Entiat meadows, Fred Dunham and I climbed the scree and water-polished rock slabs leading to the belt of ice cliffs forming the hanging glacier. By climbing a steep finger of snow between two ice blocks we were able to avoid the use of aid. Our nerves were shaken somewhat when a large block of ice broke away, and thundered down the rock face where we had been only minutes before. In the upper icefall, we used numerous tubular ice screws for protection and belays. Several of the nine pitches were 55°-60°, but since good belay platforms were readily available, the exposure was minimized to some extent. The last obstacle in the icefall, a narrow 20-foot ice chimney, required aid. An enjoyable scramble on easy rock took us to the ridge just east of the summit.

JAMES F. WICKWIRE

Liberty Bell, Northeast Face. In June of 1966 the *Barber Pole Route* was climbed by Sandy Bill, Frank Tarver, and Cindy Wade. From the

top of the Bong (the large rock projection at the base of the northeast face) the route goes upwards to a ledge which diagonals left towards the northeast corner where a large bench is encountered filled with boulders. Here the route intersects the *Independence Route (A.A.J.,* 1967, 15:2, pp. 291-3). From the end of the bench it continues upwards and begins diagonaling left once again. From the end of this lead there is a layback up a hidden crack, and then another 140 feet to the top of a pedestal. At this point it continues up the Independence Route. The new route is NCCS III, F8. Suggested hardware is 8 horizontals, and angles consisting of 1-2", 2-1½", 3-1", 3-¾", 2-⅝", and 2-½".

DON MCPHERSON, *unattached*

Liberty Bell, West Face via Serpentine Crack. About 300 feet south of the original west-face route on Liberty Bell there exists a twisting crack system that was a tempting climbing sight. With the increased popularity of rock-climbing due to the new road through Washington Pass, this seemed one of the few remaining unclimbed routes. Dave Wagner, Doug Leen, and I made the climb on July 6, finding it to be a classic though somewhat difficult route on very sound rock. On the second roped pitch a wide crack on an overhanging wall requires bongs up to four inches. The long, awkward crack following a subsequent hanging belay takes a constant use of small and medium sized angles, as it arches left across a blank face. An unexpected "squeeze keyhole" on the fourth pitch quickly solved an inhospitable barrier. Above, a pitch of highly enjoyable though tricky friction climbing leads to the crest of easier western summit rocks. Approximately 35 pitons were used on the ascent.

FRED BECKEY

Liberty Bell, Direct East Face. The first ascent of this marvelous granite face was made in July 1965 (NCCS V, F7, A4). Since then two more V's have been done, one being a variation of the original route, and the other a hard V on the opposite side of the face. There was still another line that could be done, however, that would go directly up the center of the blankest part of the face. This Kim Schmitz and I climbed in two full days, July 20 and 21; the first Grade VI to be done in Washington. The first attempt on this route began in 1965. The start was then made about 50 feet to the left of where it now begins and required about 60 feet of bolting up a blank section to reach better cracks, which took many

days. For nearly two years a rope hung untouched from the top of this pitch. Finally Don McPherson and Ron Burgner decided to give it a try. Late one day they reclimbed the first pitch (by now the fixed rope had nearly rotted off the face) and nailed a difficult bottoming crack that led to a sling belay below a prominent left-arching roof system. They rappelled off, leaving ropes hanging, but a pinched nerve prevented Don's continuing. In the meantime, Kim and I had made plans to do it after three months in Yosemite. We decided that a bolt ladder so close to the ground was ridiculous and eliminated it by nailing a discontinuous crack about 50 feet to the right. A traverse left brought us to the crack leading up to the roofs. We fixed this pitch and rappelled off, thus reaching Don and Ron's high point without bolts. Bad weather prevented climbing next morning but we returned two weeks later.

A description of this complicated route follows. Starting to the right of the original *Liberty Crack Route,* nail a discontinuous crack, using two or three sky hooks to bypass short blank sections, to a shallow cave below a small roof (A3). Free climb left and up onto a loose block (F8) to the start of another crack. Nail out over a small roof on this crack and up until the dihedral starting a series of left arching overhangs is reached (A4); then nail to a belay in slings. The next lead arches up and left to a bolt (A3). Nail and free climb up and right over last part of arches (bad blocks, A2, F8), up a F8 jam, then nail a short arch up and right to a belay from two bolts. Pendulum right across blank face, difficult mantel and more free climbing to a bolt (F9); then nail (A4) up to belay below a large roof in midface. Nail out over roof (A4 at lip) to small tree. Nail series of vertical cracks up and right to stance on a prominent block. Nail (A3) up into left facing dihedral. Start of dihedral involves difficult free climbing (F8) where bolts would otherwise be needed. Nail dihedral to large ledge. Nail crack off left end of ledge then free climb to a stance. Free up right around unobvious corner (F8) then free and nail big loose blocks around right side of huge diamond-shaped bulge. Free up ramps left to overhangs. Free and nail over these, then climb right about 80 feet to corner where last few pitches of easy climbing to summit begin. Approximately 250 pitons, 15 nuts, 2 sky hooks, and 4 bolts were placed on the climb. A standard selection of 45 pins from knifeblades to 3-1½″ and 1-2″ angle should be sufficient. NCCS VI, F9, A4.

JAMES MADSEN, *unattached*

The Minuteman, Liberty Bell Massif. On July 30, Bill Lingley and I ascended the Minuteman, which lies just south of Liberty Bell and east of Concord Tower. Beginning at the apron's left-hand base, the route climbs for three leads to a group of evergreen trees. A long crack to the right leads to the tower itself. Climbing steep cracks from the right to a bush, the route continues through a prominent overhang and jams a perfect two-inch crack to the summit. The descent is best made by rappelling and down-climbing the Minuteman's north slopes until it is possible to cross the gully below Liberty Bell. Continued down-climbing finds a bush which anchors the final 150-foot rappel. A selection of fifteen pitons should include four 2″ angles for this III, F8, A1 route.

SCOTT DAVIS, *The Mountaineers*

Kyes Peak, Northeast Ridge. An extended logging road on the north fork of the Sauk River makes this new route, climbed by me on September 14, the most direct of the three approaches available. From the road end follow good trail two miles to Curry Gap, then southwest up through timber and along the open ridge to the northeast base of the peak at 6000 feet. Class 3 rock on the left edge of the glacier leads to the summit via its southeast corner. Four to five hours from the road end.

MIKE HEATH

Sloan Peak, East Face. Although only 600 feet high, the overall shearness of the east wall of this popular peak in the west central Cascades has discouraged previous attempts. (A 1965 route using the southeast corner of the face avoided the difficult lower half.) On August 26 and 27, Gary Glenn and I selected a route beginning at the top of the glacier directly below the summit, and after 18 hours of mostly aid-climbing we completed the first direct ascent. Start from the moat 250 feet north of the south edge of the glacier and climb a slightly overhanging bong crack to its end, then right up a smooth block (2 bolts, rurps) to a cramped, dirty ledge. Twenty feet above, the first hanging belay was established. Climb directly up mostly vertical rock using fair aid cracks and one bolt, passing under a small overhang with a left step-across (F8), then up on knifeblades and a bolt to a prominent down-sloping ledge. The party bivouacked here with hammocks under the protection of the large overhang, although a better ledge could be reached with two more class 5 leads. Traverse along the ledge to its north end, then up a large rotten chimney for 100 feet until a crumbly left traverse (F8) reaches the end of a large

level ledge. Climb right on the face above on aid to a wide sloping platform that leads north to a left-leaning dièdre. One hundred thirty feet of class 5 on its left wall gains a rubble heap where difficulties end. Traverse left, then up for two class 4-5 leads to the summit. 75 pitons and 4 bolts were placed. Incipient cracks in the Sloan Peak gneiss make knifeblades and rurps a necessity, and the first crack requires 1-4″ and two smaller bongs. NCCS IV, F8, A4.

MIKE HEATH

White Chuck Mountain, South Face. On August 31, Ted Carpenter, Mike Heath, and I made the first ascent of the south face on this often climbed peak located some 10 miles east-southeast of Darrington. From the basin on the west side of the peak, which can now be reached by a short hike from a logging road at 4000 feet, we climbed rockslides below the southwest face to an elevation of 6000 feet at a point just opposite an alpine pond. The narrow south face lies between two steep rock couloirs on a direct line between this pond and the summit. Two hundred feet of rock scrambling brought us to the base of the steep 800-foot face. The route lies on the left side of the face and follows a series of chimneys interrupted by short ledges to within sixty feet of the summit, and there a heather ledge leads right to the south ridge and the top. The face is continuous class 4 climbing with several class 5 pitches, including two difficult exits at the top of chimneys. Six nuts and two pitons were used for protection. Easy access and excellent rock (solid green schist) make this an attractive climb.

JOSEPH VANCE

Gunsight Peak (Blue Mountain), New Routes on the North and Center Peaks. A six-day trip into the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, near the head of the west fork of Agnes Creek, yielded two fine alpine granite routes on the faces of triple-summited Gunsight Peak, but almost had disastrous consequences resulting from the high water runoff in June, almost a month later than the usual danger period. Four of us lost almost a day in just getting across the south fork of Agnes Creek, finally climbing a slippery log in a thundering canyon with the aid of about six pitons. We then set up a tyrolean traverse from trees at a different location for hauling packs and for the return trip out. In between these exasperating episodes I was chased by a black bear. To make matters even more hectic, after meeting Leif Patterson a short time later on the

trail, we had walked only a few minutes and encountered another bear running down the trail at us. A shout and some frantic running dispersed all three of us, and needless to say, we felt surrounded by bears. Climbing up the slopes of Icy Creek took us to a lovely rock ridge above timberline, high alongside the edge of the Chickamin Glacier. While two of our group repeated some standard climbs, Patterson and I climbed the northwest face of the north peak of Gunsight on June 19, a project that required 35 pitons, and a good many of these on an overhanging lead to the north summit ridge. Our other new climb was on the following day, when we pushed a fine free route on the southwest face of the central peak (ten pitons) where the granite was magnificent. The unusual hot weather broke on the hike out, and it began to rain as we discovered that the log ford was impossible. I was swept off my feet twice in overflow water, just to prove this out. By a stroke of luck two of our group spotted a new log crossing. Patterson got dunked going first across the tyrolean, and nightfall halted the project with two on each bank. Bears fortunately did not bother to visit us that night, and a blazing fire and hot tea made us forget our wet clothes.

FRED BECKEY

Spire Point, South Face. On September 14, Paul Karkiainen and I made the first ascent of the south face of 8220-foot Spire Point, 600 feet above the snow high over Cub Lake in the Dome Peak country. The route starts at a chimney west of the bottom of the face and goes fairly directly to the summit. A few pitons were used as well as a nylon sling which came off its rock projection when it was most needed and went shooting down the rope to the belayer. NCCS IV, F6, except for an easier section in upper mid-face.

DICK BENEDICT, *unattached*

Sharkfin Tower, Northwest Face. On July 1, Dan Raish, Woody Savage and I made the first recorded ascent on the north side of this small but prominent peak above Boston Basin. A drop over Sharkfin Col and a short traverse to the east on the Boston Glacier brought us to a steep ice tongue leading up the northwest rib of the tower. After three 150-foot leads on 50°-60° névé, the crest of the arête was reached and the remaining 500 feet were all on the excellent Sharkfin quartz diorite. Climbing was all moderate class 4 with one class 5 lead required to exit from the rib onto the upper north face. This mixed ice and rock route has the

advantage of a much more spectacular alpine setting than the more direct south side approaches. Seven hours were required from upper Boston Basin.

MIKE HEATH

Twin Sisters, Northwest Face of South Twin. On June 13, Reed Tindall and I completed a new route on the northwest face of this 6932-foot peak, highest point in the Twin Sisters Range, located 10 miles southwest of Mount Baker. The 900-foot face was ascended in about 10 leads over class 3 and class 4 rock. One 60-foot pitch involved climbing 45° to 50° snow about three-fourths of the way up the face. The climb up took about seven hours from Dalley Prairie.

DALLAS KLOKE, *Skagit Alpine Club*

Mount Spickard (formerly Glacier Peak II), North Face. Early in July, Victor Lapatinskas and I paddled across Ross Lake and hiked into the rather "inaccessible" Chilliwacks. We climbed the north face of Mount Spickard via the prominent glacier that rises rapidly from Glacier Lake 6200 feet to the summit (8894 feet), where it reaches a maximum steepness of about 60°.

ALEX BERTULIS

Washington — Olympic Mountains

Mount Cruiser, Southeast Face. On August 27 Paul Karkiainen and I climbed the southeast face of Mount Cruiser direct from its lowest point. The face is about 300 feet high, steep and unbroken but with adequate holds. The longest lead went 140 feet over the steepest portion of the face to a 6-inch standing-belay ledge. The route comes out about 20 feet west of the summit on the ridge. The entire route is well to the right of the standard route. NCCS IV, F5. Piton cracks are scarce.

DICK BENEDICT, *unattached*

Mount Jupiter Cliffs. Daylight was just breaking in the east on July 19 when Gary Tate and I left the car for a 25-minute hike from the end of the Duckabush Road for a third attempt on the Mount Jupiter Cliffs. They are located on the southwest side of Mount Jupiter, a prominent 5700-foot peak in the center of the eastern skyline of the Olympics. Our route was to parallel the left side of a springtime waterfall bed that dries up when the snow on the upper slopes has melted. With a starting 60-foot

exposure coupled with the combination dirt, vegetable and loose rock holds one finds at a 1400-foot elevation, we roped up as the better part of valor. Gary led up the first chimney which was capped with a rotten log; across a slight slope to a deep but narrow chimney and it was my turn to lead; out of here and onto a wide, moss-covered ledge which was to become the pattern for the day. Chimney, ledge, chimney, ledge and always forcing us towards the dry watercourse to the right. Finally, a ledge, at first wide, narrowed to a thin flake out onto a face with the only exit a ten-foot friction pitch leading to another ledge. Olympic rock seldom lends itself for piton placing, and this exposed lead was no exception; I declined my turn. Gary led this pitch nicely with the comment, "You have to commit yourself!" and then brought me and my trepidations up. This latest ledge dead-ended in a 60-foot chimney which in the spring is more beautiful as a waterfall. We were 2500 feet above the beginning of our climb. The top of the narrow chimney opened out on a steep grass-covered slope and with much awareness of safety, I placed a piton before testing the holding powers of the grass roots. One more lead into a cave, under and around a large chockstone, up a short but tricky pitch and we were on top of the cliffs with a long and gentle tree-covered slope stretching to the summit. Feeling no need to continue upward, we traversed to the east in hopes of a simpler descent. After much scrambling and four rappels on a down route that crowded us back to the creek bed, the last hundred feet of water-polished slab brought us after 12 hours to our starting place. We used one piton; NCCS II, F4.

HAROLD L. PINSCH, *The Mountaineers*

California

Boulder Gorge, Yosemite. September 28, 1966 was supposed to be a rest day. I had just returned from a Yosemite beat-out and did not feel up to anything hard. So I decided to give my wife Liz a treat by taking her up an "easy" first ascent. Vic Cowley and another chap, both itinerant Englishmen sojourning in the Valley, joined us. A 1000-foot gash was our objective. Hidden in a corner on the north side of the Valley, it was undistinguished by either elegance or beauty but appeared enjoyable. We thought we would find plenty of grips. I had been intrigued by it when I climbed Pharaoh's Beard, just 200 feet west. After a hearty breakfast and convivial imbibition of many cups of hot, black coffee, we made a typically late start, leaving camp at noon. But it is a short walk and I was soon struggling with the *First Petite Boulder.* In the first 200 feet

there are three large chockstones. By the time I reached the second, I realized I had again underestimated a route. The three boulders were like chess problems with obscure solutions. Each was a pleasure to solve, and each was protected by excellent natural runners—even nuts were unnecessary. The *Second Petite Boulder* was the hardest. It was a knight's move. I easily chimneyed up alongside it, but near the top the gully widened and I was forced to bridge by pushing my feet against one side and wedging my shoulders against the other, while my body slowly oozed onto the boulder in a mortifying bellyroll which left me gasping, abraded and wondering how Chouinard would have done it. "Oh well," I thought, "I'll give Liz a little tension on that one and the rest should be easy." It was not. We had started out not using pitons—because the runners were good and because it was more exciting and interesting risking falls on nuts and runners rather than on pitons. We continued in this style past the *Third Petite Boulder,* past *Giant* and *Mammoth Boulders* to *Colossus,* with always a decent nut or runner for protection. Always? Actually, not quite. There is a section in the gully where it is best to follow a ledge system to the left to avoid unpleasantries in the bottom of the trough. This pitch was about F6 and the nuts were not much. *Colossus,* the last major boulder, demands concentration. Climb the right wall. First follow a crack in a dihedral. A loose flake juts from the crack 25 feet up. Just below it, go right across the face to a corner and then up a layback and a face where you almost wish you had a 1-inch Chouinard angle for protection. You *think* you know the nuts are good and so you finish anyhow, trembling but with a slight smirk in your soul, for you know the worst is over and you have used no pitons. When the four of us were finally atop *Colossus,* the sun was setting and the party degenerating. Liz was tired, I was panicky, and Vic and his friend were frustrated and slightly annoyed at my bad judgment. We bivouacked 300 feet above *Colossus*—in T-shirts and shorts! Luckily Vic was a smoker and had brought matches, and there was firewood, and the night was exceptionally mild. We even slept a bit. At dawn, we groggily scrambled 200 feet higher and walked out onto a buttress where we found a 40-foot pine tree. It made a good rappel anchor; we rappelled from it and made seven more to the ground, whence we scurried to camp eager for ham and eggs and lots of strong, steaming coffee.

ROYAL ROBBINS

Nutcracker, Manure Pile Buttress, Yosemite. Two years ago Yvon Chouinard discovered the remarkable potential of a 600-foot rock sitting

modestly between El Capitan and the Three Brothers, a rock used as a training ground by the Park Service but largely ignored by others. Chouinard returned one evening to Camp 4 voluble about an easy route he had just found on Manure Pile Buttress (named for its proximity to a horse-dung dump). He christened his route "After Six," for it was climbable in the coolness of a Yosemite summer evening. This pleasant route starts in a dihedral with a little tree 30 feet up, and follows (more or less) the crest of a rounded ridge all the way. The first pitch is F7, the rest easier; and one can take weaker parties around to the left to avoid the first pitch.

Last spring my wife Liz and I did "Nutcracker," a new route of exciting and varied but never severe free climbing. Two weeks later Chouinard and I found a direct and more logical finish which rounds out the climb nicely. What is unusual about Nutcracker is that it is a 600-foot Yosemite climb and pitons are unnecessary. It can reasonably be done with nuts (artificial chockstones) and natural runners alone. The first ascent went like this: In May, we turned off onto a dirt road halfway between the Lower Brother and the east buttress of El Capitan and drove to the base of the rock. Starting 200 feet east of the dihedral of After Six, we scrambled up 20 feet to a tree and climbed a 50-foot jam-crack-squeeze-chimney to a good stance. Then easy face-climbing and a nut in a corner, a traverse out right and a runner on a flake and I was nose to nose with the hard part. So I fitted a so-so nut and draped a so-so runner on a so-so crystal (be brave, I thought, that's a good runner on the flake below) and moved up. Then it was fingertips and toes across to the dihedral on the right, and easily up this corner to a good ledge, but with a belay in the corner because I did not have a 180-foot rope. The next pitch is terrific: jams, laybacks, and face-climbing for 150 feet with 7 nuts and 2 runners along the way. You can fix the stance at the end with belays through holes in the rock. Before the leader takes off on the next pitch, move the belay up 10 feet. He can use the extra rope. A good slotted nut in a little overhang starts the next pitch; 15 feet higher I slipped in a couple of little wedges which would probably hold the sort of sliding, bouncing fall one would take here slipping off the friction on the traverse, I told myself moving carefully left. I next went straight up past an overhang that required first thinking and then resolution; next it was marvelously sustained low-angle face-climbing where I could have placed twice as many nuts as I did. Reaching a small ledge bristling with quartz crystals, I climbed a bit higher to fix some nuts for the belay. Liz had some trouble on the overhang, but the rest went fine and she soon joined

me. It was late and cold, and so we traversed off and went up easy rock to the top. When Yvon and I did the direct finish, he cracked the headwall in an open corner on the left—there are a couple of funny moves here—and then went slightly right and straight up. The finish is a bit thin, but if you don't like it you can end in a bushy gully on the left. A selection of about a dozen nuts plus several runners will do. And a couple of the smallest Clog wedges are useful. Take them. NCCS II, F7.

ROYAL ROBBINS

Washington Column, East Face. The east face of Washington Column was climbed by Layton Kor, Jim Madsen and Kim Schmitz in May. The climb, which took three days, was rated as NCCS VI, F8, A5.

Higher Cathedral Rock, East Face. In June, Chris Fredericks and Jim Bridwell made the first ascent of the east face of Higher Cathedral Rock, which they rated at NCCS VI, A4, F9.

Washington Column, South Face. The first ascent of the south face of Washington Column was made in October by Jim Bridwell and Joe Faint.

Castle Rock Spire. In September TM Herbert and Tom Frost did a new route on the face of Castle Rock Spire. The climb follows a crack system that eventually connects with the original route about two-thirds of the way up the face. The first two pitches are nailing over rotten rock; nuts were used frequently in places where pitons might have dislodged blocks. After the third pitch a bivouac was made on a good ledge. The fifth pitch went free and the sixth was mixed. From here the summit was reached by climbing the last four pitches of the standard route. NCCS V, F8, A4.

New Routes on Daff and Fairview Domes, Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite. On July 2 Bob Kamps and I climbed a new route on Daff Dome and called it "The Cooke Book" after the blacksmith-climber, Bruce Cooke. The route ascends the obvious left-facing open-book on the west face and is quite sustained fifth-class climbing. An awkward undercling (5.10) begins the last pitch, which is a long, left-slanting layback to the summit ridge. (III, 5.10). Fairview Dome is the most impressive and clearly visible of the Tuolumne domes. We climbed two new routes on it: Lucky Streaks (IV, 5.9) and Always Arches (IV, 5.10). The former

ascends the discontinuous and parallel crack system quite close to the southern skyline as one looks at the west face. Here again the climbing is over beautiful, high-angle rock and is quite sustained. The Always Arches route, which weaves through thick arches on the northern edge of the northwest face is also sustained—two pitches are 5.10—but not nearly so pleasant. While the firm rock and the excellent views of the high country are delightful, some of the difficult sections under the arches are simply oppressive.

THOMAS J. HIGGINS

Mount Morrison, North Face, High Sierra. Mount Morrison, visible from Convict Lake and Highway 395, has presented its spectacular and unclimbed north face for many years without attracting many serious climbing attempts. On May 28 Charlie Raymond and I climbed the face in twelve hours, beginning from a campsite in the hanging valley at the mountain's base. The route starts in the middle of a squat, black hunk of rock. We climbed generally straight up, tending right where the black rock turns grey. Traversing down and left (5.8) to avoid a clean, sharp dihedral, we soon reached an easier broken area. The climbing continued up broken rock to the base of "California," a white section shaped like the state and visible from the hanging valley below. At that point, the imposing wall above forced us left over a friction traverse to an exposed corner. Charlie's lead took us nearly to the prow of the north buttress, where we rapidly climbed toward a gold-colored chute above. The chute took us to a steep headwall and finally a thin ridge, which led to the summit. The first pitch is devious and difficult, but after the first four pitches are done the climbing is never more than 5.6. (V, 5.8).

THOMAS J. HIGGINS

Mount Hamilton, South Face, Sequoia National Park. Jim Wilson and Dick Long had scouted the face and reported a Grade V or VI, some 1800 feet of nearly vertical climbing with almost no ledges. The walk in to Lower Hamilton Lake on July 27 was very pleasant. The next morning we sorted gear and searched for a better camp at the foot of the wall across the creek. About noon Al Steck and I set out to climb the first pitches. The first one up the buttress was all free except for one move across a smooth rib, which went with a sling. On top of the buttress we were below one of the more questionable parts. Al led up to the right side of a sickle-shaped ledge, placing a bolt to get to it and

another to make the first move across. A rurp and a bugaboo got him high enough to tension traverse into the beginning of a great crack, the only break in an otherwise 400-foot vertical wall. We descended to return with everyone on the 29th. Climbing the great crack took all day. We bivouacked in slings near the top of the chimney. Above, the most plausible route was to stay right for several leads and then climb a sloping ramp to a moist, grassy area we called "Upper Bearpaw Meadow." Above this the face was split by an open-book which gradually deepened into a chimney and then widened into a steep gully leading to the summit. In the morning a few aid pitons got Al high enough to traverse right to more broken rock and free-climb to a sandy nook at the foot of a deep chimney. Dick led the chimney, the right side of which was a huge, detached finger of rock slowly separating from the wall. From the point of the finger, he gained an open-book which slanted back to a horizontal system of ledges directly below Upper Bearpaw Meadow. Al had trouble around the corner leading to the "meadow," but this pitch was easy to clean; most of the pins fell out when Dick prusiked up the rope. The "meadow," halfway point of the climb, was a 45° patch of wet grass, sloping back into an alcove filled with ferns and dripping water. Above it the open book continued another hundred feet before narrowing into the chimney, every foot a horror, rounded and devoid of cracks. As an alternative, Dick climbed up on the face, shooting pins in all directions like a porcupine. Several hours later he managed to get to a solid flake, placed a bolt and rappelled to the "meadow." Evening was spent chopping mud for seat holes. In the morning Dick managed to reach the foot of a nasty flaring chimney 40 feet right of the bolt and wiggled up it to a ledge which led to the base of a tower of vertical slabs that looked so precarious that we called it the "House of Cards." I led a pitch straight up from there, mostly free. Dick led a long mixed free and aid pitch, diagonaling left to the foot of the chimney. Success was assured! Al took the next pitch and I started another before darkness caught us. With no level ledges available, we ended up in four different places, each half supported by bivouac seats. On the morning of August 2, I finished my lead on the first level platform of the climb. Al took the next lead, using only two pins right at the start. Jim then made a short lead into the mouth of a deep, narrow chimney filled with chockstones, up which I worked. Al then led the last pitch over the rim to the summit boulders, only 50 feet from the top. Dick guided us over the summit of Mount Hamilton and down the back side.

LESLIE D. WILSON

Whitney Portal Buttress. One of the most overlooked rock-climbing challenges of the Sierra seemed to lie at the end of the Whitney Portal road, above Lone Pine. Facing south, an elegant white buttress rises from a few hundred feet above the horse trail in a solitary sweep of about 1200 feet to a minor summit which fronts still higher ridges to the north. The scale is deceiving: I had estimated this climb to be about 600 feet and well within the limits of a day. This proved very wrong. Pat Callis and I left the road early on May 21 and started toward a system of cracks that merged on the buttress crest and wove into the one and only crack that led upwards. Beyond the third pitch, route-finding was no problem. Pat led the first pitch, an awkward jam-crack that had F7 and 8 moves. Then I worked up a pitch on aid, climbing a small overhang and nailing around a ceiling. This took time in the hot sun. Both the fifth and seventh leads, which were Pat's, had very tricky friction, the nature of which I think future parties will admire. Three bolts were placed on a flawless wall, one while he stood on minute nubbins. Night found us at the end of the eighth lead in a makeshift bivouac with little extra clothing. In the morning, however, the heat soon came—Lone Pine, 5000 feet lower, registered 106° that day. Three pitches of exacting aid climbing completed the difficulties by noon. Slabs and scrambling traverses took us to the highest point; happily we discovered some snow to quench our thirst. In all the climb was judged Grade V; we used 104 pitons and 6 bolts.

FRED BECKEY

Third Needle, Whitney Needles, East Face. In late August, 1966 Mike Heath solo made a new route on the Third Needle, climbing the prominent chimney splitting the upper east face.

Montana

P 12,019, East Face, Beartooth Range. On July 24 Wally Hunter and I made the first ascent of the east face of P 12,019. It is located at the end of Rock Creek between Glacier and Moon lakes. After 1½-mile approach, we climbed a snowfield to the base of the 1100-foot face. Several overhangs were encountered; the crux pitch was at the top of an open-book. For one rope-length we followed a moderate friction pitch to grassy ledges dividing the face in two. The route then led up a gully containing third and fourth class ledges to a point where we made a small traverse on a flake into a wide chimney, where we used several angle pitons for aid to avoid climbing through a waterfall. The summit was gained by veering slightly to the left to a notch in the summit plateau.

CHAD CHADWICK, *Unaffiliated*

Wyoming — Tetons

Mount Moran, South Buttress Central. The south buttress of Moran, which has already in the past 15 years provided three excellent and difficult routes, has yielded yet another. On July 16, Peter Koedt and Keith Becker climbed a distinct and spectacular route between the regular South Buttress route (1953) and the South Buttress East (1957). From the west end of the second ramp of the regular route, two initial pitches were climbed, the first up and right and the second somewhat left and then up. A steep but moderate ramp led again left for 100 feet where the exit was made up a short vertical wall to a belay niche. One more pitch up and left in a sloping "V" left the party in an uncomfortable belay position just below prominent overhangs. Huge block overhangs could be seen arching up and right, part way around a great smooth slab some 300 feet across. This slab is of the same nature as the Great Traverse Slab of the South Buttress East, except that this one is two or three times as large. The problem was to reach the slab. After surmounting a small overhang the party followed a difficult quartz vein (F8) for 30 feet to the right and gained the slab. Direct aid using pitons and a bolt then led to a major horizontal quartz vein about 40 feet above. This was followed out until they were forced to ascend 30 feet to a third horizontal vein. This was again followed until a small but distinct "V" led up and back to the left under an overhang. The climbers went underneath this overhang for some 50 feet before they could step around it on the left. Two more pitches up through small overhangs and short walls, once requiring a bolt for protection, brought them to a friction traverse to the right to an obvious vertical cleft which led to the large bowl at the top of the buttress. The difficulty of this climb is comparable to that of the regular route (III, F8, A2). While there are fewer pitches, the hard ones are probably more difficult. The slab is, for the Tetons, a most spectacular place and the route climbed is probably the only feasible one across it.

Cube Point, Southwest Apex. Barry Corbet and Chuck Satterfield on September 4, 1966, climbed this new II, F8, A2 route on the familiar Cube Point. From the main Symmetry Couloir the base of the climb was reached via the subsidiary couloir leading to the notch separating Symmetry from Cube Point; the route starts some 500 feet below the notch and to the right (east) of the smooth southwest face. The climb began by scrambling up and right toward a tree on a slanting apron of rock. The first lead from the far side of the ridge started with a 50-foot

open-book. After jogging left, they moved back into the continuation of the open-book, ending with another move left and up over a difficult 10-foot F8 bulge to an out-sloping belay ledge. The second pitch zig-zags up the ridge past a section of slightly loose rock to a belay position below a dark overhang. Starting from a point 10 feet left of the belay point they climbed the crux pitch up a series of difficult slabs to a bulge which was passed using two pitons for aid. A 20-foot tight chimney then led to a ramp which was followed back to the nose of the ridge, where a delicate free climb up the nose itself took them to the next belay stance. One hundred feet of F3 climbing ended at the base of a 30-foot smooth face which was climbed with difficulty. A final easy lead took the party to the false summit, from which it was but a scramble to the main summit.

Mount Moran, First Winter Ascent. In recent years several parties have fruitlessly attempted the winter ascent of Mount Moran. During the past winter success finally came to a group from Salt Lake City: Tom Q. Stevenson, George Lowe, Tom Spencer, Bill Conrad, Mike Lowe, Court Richards, Dennis Caldwell, Greg Lowe, George Gerhart, and Dean Johnson. After checking out with the park rangers on December 16, 1966, the group secured the services of a snow-cat to reach String Lake. That evening they skied to a camp on the plain below Skillet Glacier. Their second camp, established the following day, was located about 200 yards above the gendarme on the northeast ridge; some difficulty was experienced in climbing over the gendarme. On the 19th the first party, consisting of Stevenson, Spencer, Richards, Conrad, Caldwell, and George and Mike Lowe, made a pleasant snow climb to a point about 150 feet below the top of the ridge where one pitch of sugar snow on rock was encountered. The north summit was reached after this pitch and the main or south summit was then easily attained after a short traverse. On December 20 the second summit party, consisting of all three Lowes and Gerhart, repeated the climb; after descending they moved their camp down the mountain. The next day the group skied out to String Lake and fortunately caught the snow-cat back to the Beaver Creek area.

The weather throughout the climb was excellent. There was a thin cloud cover and the minimum temperature was —10°F. On the summit, however, winds in the vicinity of 50 mph were experienced. Conditions on the northeast ridge were very good. Since this route does contain many downsloping slabs, it would probably be subject to avalanche hazard later in the season.

Death Canyon, Cathedral Rocks, "Escape from Death." This fine route (II, F7, A2) was climbed from Death Canyon on July 5 by Rick Reese, Ted Wilson, and Mike Ermarth. Starting in a large, prominent chimney at the base of the southwest ridge of Cathedral Rock, two pitches led past an overhang in the steep polished chimney to a large belay ledge. The third lead began left on easy rock out onto a steep difficult (F7) face where, after angling back to the right, the pitch ended on a small, out-sloping ledge; the belay here was semi-hanging. The slightly overhanging jam crack above was climbed up and right (east) to a more comfortable belay ledge. From the right end of this ledge a long lead beginning with an orange slab ended above on a ledge just beneath an overhanging wall. After scrambling left for 30 feet, the party ascended an obvious chimney. Above, an overhanging A2 jam-crack eased off to free climbing to the end of the route. Descent was made by scrambling up and left to a large tree-covered ledge leading down to the northwest. From the end of this ledge two rappels took them down to the scree leading easily back to the Death Canyon Trail after 7½ hours of enjoyable climbing.

Death Canyon, Peak 10,552, "Dihedral of Horrors." On August 18, Peter Avenali and John Behrens climbed a strenuous new route out of Death Canyon of II, F8, A3 difficulty. After the first two switchbacks of the Death Canyon Trail one can see a high tower leaning slightly left with a prominent open-book; this tower is capped by a large, layered roof. After several hundred feet of talus and gully, the climbers entered a couloir of good rock which was followed until it narrowed to a width of three feet. Then they moved out to the right to a large bench from which a direct F7 climb of 150 feet led to the base of the open-book. An F7 lay-back crack on the right side of the book then allowed a move left around a corner to a 15-foot crack from the top of which they climbed directly up an overhanging F8 face. Using aid (A3) for 15 feet they reached an 18-inch down-sloping ledge for belaying. The final lead began with a broken crack on the right side of the book to the roof, which was passed with aid (A2) to reach a small ledge. A direct climb (F6) up the overhanging layered rock took the party to the summit of the climb. Descent was made by walking up and right to a point from which a 150-foot rappel brought them to some grassy benches and a grassy gully leading down to the initial talus.

Yosemite Point, Chouinard Route, variation. Sheldon Smith and Jim Erickson on August 12, climbed an F9 variant of the difficult Chouinard Route. They began their climb left of the Chouinard route on the left side of the prominent 150-foot pillar on the east side of Yosemite Point. The first 120-foot lead ascended a short jam-crack into a dark overhanging chimney. After two thin cracks up and to the right, the chimney opened out onto smooth low-angle slabs (90 feet). The third pitch (F8) ascended a short but damp overhanging cleft in the wall to the left and then traversed across moderate slabs to a small belay stance. The very difficult fourth pitch (F9) moved right and up a thin and poorly protected crack on small holds over a small overhang to a down-sloping belay position under a wet roof. The next 50 feet were nailed (A2) first over a roof and then up a dihedral to a pitifully small belay stance at the top of the crack. The final 120-foot lead (F9) traversed right and up across slabs to a crack leading to a belay position. After stepping around the corner to the right, the Chouinard route was joined.

Shadow Peak, North Face, Western Section. This route, climbed on July 12 by Ted Wilson and Rick Reese, diagonals across the north face from lower left to upper right starting from the same snow tongue as the old (1950) north face route. After starting directly up the nose of the face from the upper end of the snow, they quickly cut right in an upward traverse for about 180 feet to a very large flake forming a chimney. Left of the flake a short but steep F7 pitch was followed by some 170 feet of easier but crackless rock. Belays here cannot be anchored short of using a bolt. The next 110 feet up a large depression took them to the base of a steep, overhanging wall. From this point they again cut right and up an F5 ledge off the face to the summit ridge. The absence of cracks and occasional loose rock made this route less enjoyable than it might otherwise have been.

Nez Perce, South Ridge, variation. The south ridge route (1954) had the defect of bypassing on the right (east) the steepest section of the ridge, a "steep, massive buttress" of some 300 feet. This section was climbed directly on August 10 by Jack Weicker and Leigh Ortenburger who found the rock excellent. The base of the buttress was attacked at its left (west) corner. A tricky traverse across the face to the right up to a black rock band was followed by a climb back left to a white ramp which led to a one-foot ledge below a large flake. A lay-back put the

party on top of the flake. Ten feet up from the flake a very delicate friction traverse left, the crucial foothold being a large crystal of garnet, led to the end of the difficulties. This variation, "The Garnet Traverse," is consistently steep and direct, providing future climbers with an F8 alternative in a class similar to Irene's Arête.

Teewinot Mountain, Northwest Ridge, variation. On July 29, John Whitesel and Leigh Ortenburger, on the second ascent of the northwest ridge, made a direct variation up the steep section which had been by-passed in 1954. At a point where the original route cut out to the right, this variation continued straight up past a small tower to a difficult F6 or F7 left-facing chimney. Then followed three pitches of near vertical, beautiful F3 rock to the top of a significant but unsuspected tower which is separated from the remainder of the ridge by a 50-foot gap which will not easily be passed. This barrier forced a 150-foot descent to get onto the rib on the far (south) side of the large chimney which leads to the gap mentioned above. This rib then took the party to the summit, which was attained from the northwest. While the lowest portion of the ridge is loose rock, the upper two-thirds is composed of the finest type of solid, golden Teton rock and provides a most interesting, if long, one-day climb.

Crooked Thumb, North Face. This long and impressive face (V, F9, A3) was climbed during August 11-13, 1966, by Peter Cleveland and Don Storjohann. It stands as one of the most difficult climbs yet completed in the Tetons. When approaching the Thumb from Cascade Canyon and the cirque to the west, one sees two large overhangs with black water stains on the wall below the pointed section of the Thumb; these overhangs proved to be the key to the route. The bottom of these black stains was reached after walking up the gully to the west and climbing the first three pitches. After a 100-foot traverse to the left, the difficult climbing began up a vertical crack to a down-sloping ledge which was followed, using aid, to the left where the pitch ended in a hanging belay. The climb continued left and up, passing an F9 overhang to a belay stance. The seventh pitch led left up a face beneath a huge roof which was passed by a hand traverse to the right until the crack ran out and a pendulum became necessary to reach a small ledge. Another lead up and into a corner beneath an overhang ended with the second hanging belay. A knife-blade and a rurp were used to pass this overhang. More aid and free climbing led across a sloping ledge to the base of a steep wall. An easy friction

pitch left for 100 feet and up for 20 feet took the party to a small ledge. The tenth lead was up and right past wet and difficult rock to a belay ledge in the black, water-stained rock. One more lead brought them to a large, rock-strewn "Broadway" ledge below the final triangular face. The middle of this face was then climbed to a stance in black rock beside a loosely attached flake which may be seen from below. The next pitch ascended this flake and continued up and right over enjoyable rock to a second flake which was also climbed. The route then led right into an open-book which was ascended using aid. After passing a small ceiling to the left, the 14th pitch ended in yet another hanging belay. A traverse left on overhanging rock was followed by a layback crack. The overhanging and fractured brown rock above was passed using more aid. A deep guano chimney was then entered and, except for a brief zig-zag out to the right, was followed for the final two pitches which brought the party onto the summit ridge about 50 feet south of the summit.

Wyoming — Other Ranges

"Continental Tower," Wind River Range. While hiking from Little Sandy Lake to the western shoulder of Wind River Peak near the southern end of the range, Bob Stevenson and I camped below several magnificent granite towers, of whose existence I had no idea. We singled out the largest on July 28. To reach its southern notch took almost a half-day, with a variety of devious fourth and fifth class pitches. The final summit section was of more continuous difficulty and included a short section of aid. It appeared that we had taken the easiest route: we used 18 pitons.

FRED BECKEY

Little Sandy Buttress. Even from the highway skirting the Wind River Range on the south the profile of a sharp buttress stands out clearly. Located on a subsidiary summit about two miles north of Little Sandy Lake, it provided Bob Stevenson and me with a fine one-day climb on July 29. In the 1000 feet of roped climbing the difficulties increased to a crux chimney that finally blanked out after a marvelous pitch of F7. We employed 22 pitons and 5 tediously placed bolts. The route has a classic line, heading directly to the crest of the buttress with no escape opportunities.

FRED BECKEY

The Brown Cliffs, Wind River Range. A new approach to this relatively unknown climbing area was proved feasible the first week of July when Bill Eubank, Chris, his 12 year old son, Jim Petroske, Carl Plassmann and I pushed through knee-deep snow from Island Lake over Indian Pass, across Knifepoint Glacier to the 12,000-foot col between Knifepoint Mountain and the Brown Cliff ridge. Very steep snow slopes lead down to the Alpine Lakes to the south, and we found a good route over these frozen lakes under the western buttresses of the Brown Cliffs through a narrow gap where the outlet from Middle Alpine Lake flows eastward into Snowbridge Lake. An excellent camping site lies right at the base of the Brown Cliffs. From this campsite, on July 8 we climbed the most prominent pinnacle, Bonney Peak 239, by scrambling up a talus slope, then a series of narrow ledges to a low saddle, a knife-edge, on the ridge joining this peak to Peak 240. The summit was reached in about three hours from camp by a series of about eight pitches of roped climbing on excellent rock up the east ridge. No pitons were needed. A short pitch about halfway up required an interesting layback with severe exposure above the smooth vertical north face. Jim's aneroid read 11,900 feet. After returning to the low point on the ridge in a sudden squall of snow and hail, Jim, Carl and I scrambled up an easy chimney and over a small chockstone and traversed the broken north face of Peak 240 to its 11,700-foot summit, about twenty minutes from the saddle. Next day we crossed the outlet of Middle Alpine Lake and angled across steep scree, snow and ice slopes to another low point on the ridge above Middle Alpine Lake. From this saddle we ascended first to the north over shale-like flakes to the gently sloping rather flat summit of Peak 235 (12,400 feet), then to the south up the broad easy chimneys to the much larger plateau summit of Peak 236 (12,700 feet), which we reached in four hours from camp. No rope was needed.

JOHN A. WOODWORTH

The Innominate, East Face, Bighorn Mountains. Doug Leen, Roger Johnson and I camped in Penrose Canyon, as advised in Bonney's guide, and then set out on July 21 to climb the hitherto untouched east face, the longest on the peak, which is probably the most difficult summit between Cloud Peak and Black Tooth. Unexpected hard ice forced us to cut many steps, as we had not brought crampons. Tricky rock climbing, one short leader fall on my part from a loose handhold, and then a difficult, icy chockstone all contributed to delays. Having no bivouac gear, we voted

to leave in place two ropes and to complete the climb the following day. A number of rock pitches, first easy and then increasing in difficulty and looseness, eventually brought us to the ridge crest south of the unclimbed south tooth of the summit formation. With some aid, after excellent schistose cracks we reached its top just at twilight. We had used 37 pitons and 4 bolts on this probably Grade-IV climb. After descending the rocks of the west side, we spent the entire night tramping around in an effort to get back to camp; three rappels in the dark on the north side of a windy pass were unpleasant. After 29 hours on the move, we were back in camp.

FRED BECKEY

Utah

The Pulpit, Zion National Park. Standing alone just across the Virgin River a few hundred feet from the end of the road in Zion National Park, the hard red sandstone of the Pulpit was an obvious climbing challenge. Pat Callis, Galen Rowell, Eric Bjornstad, Hal Woodworth and I made the first ascent on April 15 in two pitches, the finish being up a spectacular, slightly overhanging crack. Iron used was 15 pitons and 6 bolts.

FRED BECKEY

King-on-a-Throne, Monument Valley. A perpendicular, forked-summit tower, standing about 400 feet above the desert floor, had long intrigued me. A roadside marker points to it, saying: "King-on-a-Throne." Spring-time winds blasted us off the tower after we had spent two days on technical pitches and had reached the final summit tower, which is capped by the obvious "throne." Marlene Dalluge, Joe Brown and I climbed an interesting crack system, some of it overhanging, to the notch between the summits; then we followed an open chimney to a belay platform. Don Liska arrived in time to join us on the final tower and to relieve me from some of the bolting. In all, we placed 27 pitons and the same number of bolts. For someone who wants a spectacular climb in this area, I recommend this one. The rock is sound and the climb should now be done in one day.

FRED BECKEY

Arizona

Middle Sister, Monument Valley. The Three Sisters are among the most noted sandstone formations in Monument Valley. The two outer Sisters

had been climbed by Layton Kor and his party in the fall of 1966 and so the middle tower whetted our "first-ascent hunger." Along with the Totem Pole, it is probably the thinnest tower in the region. Wind hampered our progress; we had to return several times to the ascent, which we finished on April 20. Pat Callis, Harvey T. Carter, Eric Bjornstad and I found the range of difficulties from F8 climbing to A3 nailing. We placed 24 pitons and on the final summit tower, 33 bolts.

FRED BECKEY

New Mexico

Brazos Cliffs, White Couloir Route. This spectacular quartzite face rises some 2000 feet above the Brazos River in northern New Mexico. Several routes have been pioneered by George Bell and others, but large sections of the five-mile-long cliffs remain untouched. A new route, climbed on October 8 by George Bell, my wife Alice, Mike Williams and me, begins in the white-faced gully just west of the Great Couloir. Two routes were followed up the lower 400 feet. The White Couloir proper begins with two moderate pitches up the left side, then crosses the gully into a series of steep, tree-covered ledges. Three pitches follow, terminating in a jam-crack between a large flake and the wall. From here a scramble leads into the first bowl. The variation starts just left of the gully and follows easy cracks for two pitches after which it moves onto the gully's western rim. Face climbing follows to an awkward and poorly protected traverse, after which easier pitches above finally rejoin the first route at the bowl. Above this, the route works toward the east ridge crest on moderate rock followed by mixed fourth and fifth class climbing up a steep ramp which terminates just below the head of the Great Couloir. Easy scrambling follows to the top of the normal finish of the Great Couloir route. 13 pitches; Grade II, 5.4 to 5.5.

DONALD S. LISKA

New Hampshire

Cathedral Ledge, North Conway, Pendulum Route. Paul Doyle and I made the first ascent of this route on September 2. It features excellent rock with fine belay ledges. It would be difficult to retreat after the third pitch because of the overhang of the wall below. A route description follows. Start 100 feet left of the giant roof (the Cathedral), where a large tree grows against a short overhanging face. *1st pitch:* Climb

between tree and face using aid, continue up to the right to a bushy ledge, and climb the overhanging inside corner (F7) to a large ledge. 70 feet, F7, A1; *2nd pitch:* Use aid over the overhang to the right and then up to belay ledge. There is a difficult move in the middle of the aid section. 40 feet, F6, A2; Ascend sloping ramp to left and up flaring inside corner to a bolt. Traverse out on left wall to an aid crack, which ascends overhang. Several difficult moves lead to a short wall, which is climbed to belay ledge. 140 feet, F7, A3; *4th pitch:* Descend 15 feet from belay to short inside corner, which is climbed to bolt. Continue left on tension traverse around corner to crack. Climb crack to small belay ledge. 40 feet, F5, A1; *5th pitch:* Pendulum 25 feet to crack on left and ascend to remarkable belay ledge. 70 feet, F7, A1; *6th pitch:* Ascend friction slab and continue over roof to fine belay ledge. 50 feet, F6, A2; *7th pitch:* Follow cracks to top of climb. 140 feet, F5, A1. Adequate for the climb should be a selection of 35 pitons, including a good assortment of angles up to 2-inch. Several 4-inch bong-bongs will prove useful. NCCS IV, F7, A3.

STEPHEN ARSENAULT, *Harvard Mountaineering Club*

CANADA

Yukon Territory

Attempt on a North Ridge of Mount Logan. We were a party of five: Vince Bauer, Peter Thompson, Alice Purdy, Bob Cuthbert and I. We flew in by Great Northern Airways on June 24 from Kluane Lake to the base of our ridge on the north of Mount Logan at 8000 feet, west of Blomberg's Independence Ridge (*A.A.J.*, 1966, 14:2, pp. 309-314). Base Camp was a mile east of the ridge, perhaps not the best place, but the area closer had a number of open crevasses and some that were about to open. From a food dump at the western base of the ridge at 8300 feet, we climbed to the ridge and along its very thin crest or on its west side. Camp I was at 9400 feet. We spent the next 16 days on the ridge, setting Camp II at 10,400 feet and Camp III at 11,000 feet. While climbing at midnight about 100 feet above Camp III, two of the party were carried down by an avalanche on the western side of the ridge; one suffered a broken arm and the other a bad gash in his forehead. There had been an 18-inch snowfall a few days before and in crossing an easy 40° slope, one of them caused the snow to break away. They were carried about 700 vertical feet down a 60° slope and stopped hung up around a