

periods of the climbing season. It was not until July 20-21 that two men from the Yakima Cascadians, Marcel Schuster and Gene Prater, found the favorable conditions under which to complete the ascent. Recent new snow had become well consolidated and offered a solid footing and a binding material to hold the rocks in place. (See *AAJ* 1957, photos showing the Curtis Ridge route. Continue the route-line to the summit dome above Willis Wall.) They followed the usual approach to lower Curtis Ridge via White River Campground, Glacier Basin, St. Elmo's Pass, and a traverse of the lower Winthrop Glacier. Camp was pitched near a small tarn at 8000 feet on lower Curtis Ridge. A reconnaissance that afternoon by Prater and Bob McCall, of the support party, showed frozen new snow covering the scree slopes above. The clean condition of the snow indicated that very little rock was falling. At 4:30 A.M. next morning Schuster and Prater left camp. A long rappel off the north face of the big gendarme at 10,300 feet was followed by a traverse upward along its north flank, which brought them to the knife-edged ridge. This sharp crest offered no problems from 10,000 to 11,000 feet, except for another gendarme and two more drop-offs. The crux of the whole climb was a rock cliff which intersected the ridge at 11,000 feet and had to be overcome with a shoulder stand, pitons, and stirrups. Above, progress was rapid and the next major cliff was by-passed to the right. An open snow slope and then a series of snow-filled gullies brought the climbers at 1:30 P.M. to 12,500 feet and the summit snow cap of Russell Cliff. Curtis Ridge was finally conquered. The ascent to the crater rim and summit was completed at 5 P.M. and two hours later Schuster and Prater rejoined their support party below St. Elmo's Pass after a descent via Emmons Glacier.

*Kautz Cleaver.* Point Success, the southwesterly of Rainier's three summits, and the only point above 14,000 feet which may be reached without touching glacier ice, was first reached by Stevens and Van Trump during their historic ascent of Rainier in 1870. Today Point Success is seldom visited, since until recently only one summit route ever traversed directly over this high point (Glascock and Dudley's Success Cleaver route of 1905). Two other rock ridges converge near Point Success: Tahoma Cleaver on the west, the last unclimbed ridge on the mountain, and Kautz Cleaver on the south. The latter rises steeply from the confluence of Success and Kautz glaciers, at 9000 feet, to converge with Success Cleaver at 13,000 feet. (See *AAJ* 1957, photo: "Routes of Ascents on Southwest Side of Mount Rainier." The route is on the right side of the picture.) The first two attempts were not made until 1957. The first

ended disastrously when one climber was seriously injured during a fall into a crevasse on Kautz Glacier. A week later, on August 31, George R. Senner and Charles "Bud" Robinson of Seattle left Christine Falls (3667 feet) on the Longmire-Paradise highway and climbed via Van Trump Park up the rock ridge on the east side of Kautz Glacier. At 8000 feet they climbed up on the glacier and traversed upward above the icefall at 9000 feet, the scene of the previous week's accident. They scrambled to the crest of the cleaver at 9300 feet. Early next morning, from an airy 10,000-foot bivouac on a narrow ledge several hundred feet above Kautz Glacier, they crossed the cleaver's crest onto its broad back, its ascending snow finger, and its scree slopes to the cleaver's junction with the Success Cleaver route at about 12,000 feet. Here the two ridges merge and climb upward in a series of broad snow- and scree-slopes intersected by occasional down-sloping lava cliffs 10 to 20 feet in height. The two reached Point Success at 3 P.M. Because of the late hour, they did not continue to the crater's rim but returned as they had come up, reaching Van Trump Park as darkness fell. The climbers describe the route as devoid of technical difficulties but limited in bivouac sites.

DEE MOLENAAR

*Ascents in the Cascades.* In the spring of 1957 we completed some interesting new routes. On the sheer face of Castle Rock in Tumwater Canyon, which rises several hundred feet above the main highway near Leavenworth, Washington, Fred Beckey, John Rupley, and Klindt Vielbig did the "Saint Route," which involved some very difficult balance and direct-aid climbing on a part of the wall previously considered impossible. Fred Beckey, Dave Collins, and I did a new route, called "The Canary" because of the yellow coloration of the rock. It involved some very delicate 5th and 6th class climbing, taking about 25 pitons and two bolts. The route went up a very steep slab to a corner. Above this was a nearly vertical direct-aid pitch which led onto another platform. I took the next lead, which was crucial. It was necessary to work out to the outer edge of an overhang and work up a very precipitous and airy wall, which required two bolts. After getting up the worst, I came back and Dave Collins finished it off. Beckey, Rupley, and I did a variation of "The Catburglar," a delicate balance-climb. In May, Beckey, Rupley, Fred Ayres, and I made a new route in the Cashmere Crags on Prussik Peak, so called because of Beckey's rope-throw on the first ascent. We were lucky to find an easier way up the west ridge, though it required some class 3, 4, and 5 climbing; Rupley led the crucial 15-foot class 5