

piton protected attack on the next section of the dike. Our enthusiasm was dampened for a short time when a very rotten section was found to be the key to entering the narrow chimney above. A few pitons were driven, but after insertion proved to be only good as wedges to loosen more rock. Finally a good piton gave me a chance of surviving, should the whole vein peel away from the face, as it threatened to do. Considerable scrambling and several enjoyable pitches of class 4 were encountered in the next 1000 feet before we joined the main ridge and raced to the summit, lashed by a bitter wind.

DON ANDERSON, *Seattle Mountaineers*

*Mount Washington, North Face.* The extension of the Jefferson Lake road now makes this approach usable. In May Arnold Bloomer, Roy Harniss, Neil Jacques, Keith Spencer, Don Anderson, Richard Hebble and Jerry Koch made the first ascent of this face following an approach up ridges, gullies and snow chutes.

*Mount Pershing from the East.* This early season climb was first done in May from the end of the extended Jefferson Lake road by Roy Etten, Robert Woods, Jack Christensen and Don Bechlem. Route finding was the only problem.

*The Fin, West Face.* This strenuous class 4 and 5 rock climb was first done in July by Roy Harniss and Don Anderson. The ascent is fairly short but touchy.

*Mount Cruiser, West Face.* In July, 1959 Don Anderson and Roy Harniss made the first ascent of this face, which was consistently class 4 and required iron for safety on occasional leads. The ascent was completed in six hours.

*Mount Cruiser, West Face.* This 250-foot wall, which was consistently class 5, was first done in August by Jerry Koch and Don Anderson. The party reports some very difficult climbing.

### **Oregon**

*Mount Hood, Yokum Ridge.* As we swung the car up the last few switchbacks to Timberline, Mount Hood stood crystalline clear against the blue sky. There had not been many clear days like this during the present season, and on the chance the weather might not last, it seemed a ripe time for a new ice climb on the mountain. The Austrian, Leopold Scheiblehner, and I had some ski-mountaineering in mind, but after scanning the upper slopes of the mountain, we could not resist the idea of something more complex. We had heard that Yokum Ridge, on the west side, had not been done under

winter conditions and just seeing it from the road was a fine lure. (At the time we did not know that the entire ridge and buttress had never been climbed. Since the mock-up in the lodge did not show a dotted route, it aroused our curiosity.)

The date was April 9. At four o'clock we had strapped on our packs and were ski-climbing to the Illumination Saddle. Here, at 9000 feet, we pitched my tent in a protected saddle, cooked a quick supper and wondered how cold the night would be. After a winter in nightly comfort, glacier camping seemed a rude shock. It is not hard to oversleep, and we managed this well. But it was only seven and the sun had not yet reached us. Putting the crampons on, we roped immediately and crossed the saddle to the Reid Glacier. Here we descended and traversed to the lower flanks of Yokum Ridge. The knife-like blades of ice seemed like a nightmare of ice problems instead of a route to the summit. With a covering of ice feathers, not a single rock was visible. The ridge reminded me of a serrated Alaskan one, with fluted ice on the south flank. Getting onto the crest was a toe and ice-pick workout—a strenuous one for the first cramponing of the season. Leo led this, and once on the ridge we alternated the lead. The climbing was easy in some places. In others it was delicate and exposed, and in some places it was unpleasantly difficult and dangerous. Because of the frost and rime formations, the whole surface was often a buildup of frost feathers. An axe belay was often useless, and ice pitons could not be placed. When possible we kept to the wafer-thin crest and hacked out a stance. When crossing the flanks of the fluted walls, we could do little but hope a slip would not occur. Ahead all we could see was the array of glistening towers in the morning sun. Somewhere, 2000 feet above, was the summit of Mount Hood. Both the west and northwest faces of the mountain seemed smooth and gentle in comparison to our picket fence of whiteness. Several of the most treacherous pitches stand out in our minds. A mushrooming tower threatened progress and so Leo decided to try the south flank. After chopping downward and across a groove, he disappeared around a hidden corner. Some 15 minutes later he came into view again, cutting up a gully-wall that needed both hand- and footholds. We continued flanking the worst towers just under the crest, being careful to work into tiny belay spots on the ridge or behind towers. Once I chimneyed my way up a 30-foot section of vertical ice, grasping long columns of ice feathers and pulling outwards to keep my balance while kicking and cutting footholds. This required great care, for the wrong slash of the ice axe might have brought the whole chimney wall down. It was a difficult and dangerous place—sometimes I could see daylight through the frost feathers two feet under the veneer surface. At one point Leo cut

some huge holds over his head and somehow swarmed up a 12-foot overhang. Several times the ridge ran down into notches, and we had to reverse our technique or jump into little ridge platforms. On the final upper buttress a zigzag ice corridor took us past the steepest profile. We climbed right across a fluted flank for one lead and then angled back to the top of the crest. Surprisingly, this section was not as difficult as the lower ridge and in due time we came to the broadening of the ridge, where it merged into the summit slopes. About one o'clock we stood on the top, facing a strong, biting wind. Our descent down the normal route led us soon into camp again. Skiing wide open, we raced for the lodge in the afternoon sun.

FRED BECKEY

### California

*East Face of Washington Column, Yosemite.* The completely overhanging, 1500-foot east face of Washington Column was first attempted by Warren Harding, Richard Calderwood and George Whitmore in June of 1958. They climbed some 600 feet in two days before descending and leaving fixed ropes. Later, in 1958, they climbed another 200 feet higher. A third attempt in the spring of 1959 by Harding and G. Czamanski was given up after a piton pulled out. The fourth try was made by Harding, Charles Pratt and Steven Roper. They reached a point some 900 feet up. The last and final climb began on July 27 when Harding and Pratt started upwards to complete the first ascent four days later. In the upper part of the wall they were hampered by huge cracks. Between 1200 to 1400 feet up they had a smooth section of five successive overhangs. This required 15 expansion bolts. They reached the top on July 30 after placing some 250 pitons.

*North Face of Middle Cathedral Rock, Yosemite.* Robert Kamps, Charles Pratt and Steven Roper made the first ascent of the north face of Middle Cathedral Rock in the summer of 1959 in two and one-half days. Yvon Chouinard reports that this climb, one of the finest in the Yosemite, was done without expansion bolts and with a minimum of direct aid.

*West Face of Mount Conness.* Warren Harding and Herbert Swedlund made the first ascent of the west face of Mount Conness in the summer of 1959 in three and one-half days.

### Idaho

*Chimney Rock, North Face.* The first ascent of the North Face of Chimney Rock was made by Don Bergman and Ed Cooper in July. This is only the second route, and the possibility of many additional difficult routes exists. Easy scrambling on the northeast ridge followed by one class 4 pitch brought