

June 6-7 by Tom Frost and Royal Robbins. This route involved eleven pitches, 180 pitons and six bolts. One of the pitches took five hours to complete and needed 36 pitons and four bolts. Two previous attempts had been made on this 1100-foot face. The climbers regarded this ascent as difficult as the northwest face of Half Dome.

STEVEN ROPER, *Sierra Club*

Idaho

Mount Heyburn, North Face. Probably the most obvious technical climb in the Sawtooth Range, the direct north face of Mount Heyburn, had never been done prior to this season. Heyburn, as seen from the north, from the highway or Redfish Lake, is split into two summits and has a deep snow couloir. The western summit is the highest, and it was its long northern buttress and face that we chose. Leaving Sun Valley early on July 4, Jerry Fuller and I made the hike to the scree saddle above the upper Bench Lake well before noon. Clouds and falling mist teased us and we stalled a serious attempt for an hour. But we climbed several pitches on the lower section of the north buttress, then descended to find a better route line. Until then, we were convinced we would have to wait for a better day; however, while climbing to the top of the lower end of the buttress via a new line, the clouds parted sufficiently to lure us onward. So far, the route had been interesting fifth class, with one rather strenuous layback to reach a mantleshelf position. We made a rope length first on scree and then on a steep friction slab to the crest. Faced with scaling a monolith block by aid or rappelling to a ledge on the east side, we chose the latter. In two leads we were at a little saddle at the foot of the final section of the north face, perhaps 500 feet beneath the summit. Using knife-blade pitons for protection I crossed a vertical wall with only microscopic footholds, a lead that went into a combination jam-layback without any rest. It was the most exhausting pitch of the climb; the crack continued easier with nice flakes for handholds to a platform on the wall. Here we could follow a long crack system directly upward or make a full-lead traverse left to the center of the face. This traverse seemed possible, but terribly exposed. However, from studying this face during the winter ascent of Heyburn it appeared that this ledge promised access to a new crack system which led to the summit area. Once at the end of the traverse I anchored in and saw that this final system, though very steep and exposed, would go fifth class. Fuller led across a virtually holdless traverse that forced him into a badly "spread-eagled" position and almost certain danger of falling. Future parties on this route will find this move highly interesting, we think. If the final clutch handhold (a small block) falls out, as it was almost ready

to, the pitch probably will not go. The route continues up the left side of a giant dihedral for two leads, steep and very enjoyable fifth class. From a small notch in the summit ridge we climbed a friction *cheval* to where we could unrope and scramble along the last portion of the crest. We descended via the west face route.

FRED BECKEY

Mount Heyburn, Winter Ascent. On April 4 Louis Stur and I made the first winter ascent of this major Sawtooth peak, using skis to the north saddle and then climbing the west chimney. Although it was cold, the climbing was quite tolerable because the sun had kept the route relatively free of powder snow and verglas. Skis were used to make a quick descent and to skate across the frozen ice of Redfish Lake.

FRED BECKEY

Mount Heyburn, Northwest Ridge. Beckey and Fuller climbed about two-thirds of the way up the northwest ridge and then traversed into the north face where they found some fine class five pitches to the top. A few days later Fuller took me up the same route with two minor variations, and on this occasion we decided to take a crack at the rest of the ridge. Fuller could not do so because of a broken ankle, but on September 5 Dr. James Ball and I climbed to about the halfway mark of the northwest ridge via the lower slabs of the north face and then successfully ascended the ridge directly to the top.

LOUIS STUR

Grand Aiguille, South Face. Since the original ascent of this "unclimbable" granite monolith in 1948, all subsequent climbs had been made by the chockstoned chimney on the west face or by an easier detour to its right. Because of its proximity to Redfish Lake, the Grand Aiguille has become a popular climb. After a reconnaissance of the longer south face, Jerry Fuller and I decided to make a serious attempt on July 2. Three leads of fourth and fifth class climbing on somewhat friable red granite above the southwest gully brought us to solid and really steep rock. Using chrome-alloy pitons driven into loose, crackless rock, I did a partial pendulum around a blind, vertical corner to a sentry-box platform that was at the base of a crack line that worked upward for about 250 more feet to a tree. Fuller climbed a difficult crack that held pitons poorly; it was safer to use two of them for direct aid rather than risk a fall on a loose ten-foot section. Then the crack worked left, still difficult. Eventually, we found a new crack system going onto the summit wall, but we had to