

with improvements in technique and equipment, and sacrificing weight for speed, we decided to attempt to finish it in one day. In two hours we reached a point that had taken us almost six hours the year before, by climbing free (V to -VI) rather than with artificial techniques. We quickly reached our previous year's high point, where an exciting hanging belay was set up. A piton crack was found that allowed us to bypass the difficult section which had previously stopped us. This was climbed with aid. Somewhat above this we climbed forty feet *inside* the face behind a giant detached portion. We could not understand why it remained balanced there, since throughout the climb on the face the "stone test" showed that a stone held at arm's length fell free to the ground. The upper portion of the face, though still steep, presented a good system of interconnected ledges and cracks. Surmounting a two-foot overhang just below the top free style, we found that the climb had taken about eight hours. A wide assortment of pitons, from knife blades to giant wide angles, were employed, and the four bolts left from the 1960 attempt were not used. (Plate 26 shown in *A.A.J.* 1958, 11:1 is actually not of Chimney Rock as stated but of a rock tower just south of it.)

EDWARD COOPER

Wyoming—Tetons

Grand Teton, Black Ice Couloir. Almost everyone who has climbed the Grand Teton has been impressed by the great drop-off on the north side of the Upper Saddle and below the Crawl pitch on the traditional route. Though three routes from this general direction, the northwest ridge to the Enclosure, the west face, and the northwest chimney, had been worked out over the years, prior to 1961 no one had actually reached the Upper Saddle from such a northern approach. Objective danger had proved a deterrent, for virtually every party that had ventured into Valhalla Canyon had witnessed rockfall in the couloir leading to the Upper Saddle. The only direct attempt on this route had been made on July 7, 1958, by Yvon Chouinard, Ken Weeks, and Frank Garneau, who were forced by "very heavy ice and rockfall" to retreat from the lower part of the route. Ray Jacquot and Herb Swedlund, who made the first successful ascent on July 29, adopted tactics more familiar in the Alps in order to minimize the rockfall problem. With hard hats (an essential on this climb) they started at 1 A.M. in preplanned moonlight. Since the climb required 11½ hours, luck was with them after daybreak when clouds came in and prevented the sun from loosening the rocks in the ice. The second shelf of the Durrance west-face route was abandoned some 80 feet before the rotten chimney at its end was reached. By diagonaling up and right in the black

rock band, the edge of the icefield below the west face was reached. The party then traversed across this steep ice to the obvious couloir leading up and slightly right. This couloir was then followed to the Upper Saddle from which the Owen-Spalding route was used to reach the summit. Seven leads of steep ice climbing involved the use of about 30 ice pitons, although belays were made from rock ledges wherever possible.

Mount Wister, Direct North Face. A beautifully direct route up the steep slabs of the north face of Mount Wister was pioneered on July 27 by Layton Kor and Gary Cole. After starting to the right of the initial chimney used by the 1952 northwest chimney party, the route soon crossed to the left onto the difficult middle of the face above the second grassy ledge. Two pitons were used for aid to pass a small roof below the easy scrambling of the upper portion of the face. The arête leading to the summit was climbed directly on the crest, the crux of this portion being a difficult chimney just to the right of the crest.

Middle Teton, Northwest Ice Couloir. This couloir lies to the west of the usual north ridge route and has been partially climbed in the past, but never so completely nor so early as the ascent on June 16 by Pete Lev and Jim Greig. This party traversed into the couloir from the Lower Saddle and found a steep and difficult ice climb in the early season.

Middle Teton, Northeast Face. This climb by Royal Robbins and Jane Taylor on August 16 is perhaps the most difficult yet completed in the Tetons. It ascends the ledges and cracks at the corner of the north face and the east face of the summit block of the Middle Teton. From the glacier a prominent ledge that slants steeply upward to the right was ascended for 400 feet by moderate climbing to a broad, grassy area some 25 feet wide. Direct aid was then used to climb a crack in the overhanging wall above. This process was repeated on the next wall and again on the third overhanging wall until a pendulum could be made around a bulge and into a recess on the right. From this recess more direct aid was required to ascend the crack above, bringing the party to some ledges, the second of which provided a convenient belay spot. The next lead, partially aid and partially free, followed cracks in the face above to a steep ledge. The next lead past three overhangs, the first of which was wet, was extremely difficult free climbing (5.9). The final 60 feet to a broad sloping ledge involved poorly protected face climbing and a strenuous jam crack. Considerable use was made on this climb of the newer types of pitons and future parties should carry a good selection, especially of the knife-blade varieties.

Teepe's Pillar, Northeast Face. On August 24 Royal Robbins and Jane Taylor climbed this route which lies between the direct east-face route of