

descended to the canyon for the night. Early the next morning we re-entered the face to our previous high point. A large groove of deteriorating rock was climbed for 200 feet to the summit ridge. Descent was made via the couloir to the east. Although the potential climbs in the canyon are short, from 400-700 feet, they offer difficult challenges on rock reminding one of Tahquitz Rock or Yosemite. 45 pitons and 3 bolts. NCCS III-8-A3.

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Idaho

Split Aiguille, Direct, Sawtooth Range. Just west of the Grand Aiguille lies the 300-foot Split Aiguille, split by a deep, open chimney, which was climbed twice in 1960 by rope throwing and a tyrolean traverse from its lower summit. It was called Groin by the Iowa party, in poor taste we feel; we prefer Stur's name. (*A.A.J.*, 1961, 12:2, pp. 371-2.) On June 15 Steve Marts, Herb Swedlund and I climbed from Redfish Lake to its northern base. Herb spent the day making a photographic essay of the spectacular ascent, which followed the nearly vertical and very smooth eastern corner of the aiguille. Steve climbed the first pitch, using direct aid on a solitary crack that took angle pitons well at first but eventually bottomed out and left us skeptical about the iron. The next lead involved some difficult free climbing; then I had to place three bolts on a flawless section to reach a piton crack behind a loose flake. A strenuous flaring crack and some very exposed rotten rock gave access to a solid belay stance. Good rock and ample holds let us finish the ascent on a final short, but steep, lead.

FRED BECKEY

Sawtooth Dome, West Face, Sawtooth Range. Any climber visiting the Sawtooth Range can not but help admire the majestic curve of a great granitic dome, seen in profile about three miles above the head of Redfish Lake, to the south of Redfish Creek. Without doubt, it is the greatest face in the range. From the head of the lake early last summer, Herb Swedlund, Steve Marts and I spent a wet day packing rope and climbing iron to its foot. The 1500-foot face is nearly vertical for the first half; then in typical dome-fashion it begins to taper back. We discovered to our joy that there was a classic piton-crack system up the center of the face, which led directly to the overhanging summit capstone. The route was exposed but seemed to have a belay ledge at the end of each lead. That same day, I pitoned some 75 feet up a lone crack that overhung

slightly. Herb went a bit higher before time ran out. The rock was fantastic — of Yosemite quality with generally good cracks. On June 16 we began the climb in earnest. Herb finished the direct-aid lead and Steve continued on, mostly with aid, in an open-book that in 140 feet turned into a beautiful belay ledge. Herb then climbed a vertical crack that required 17 aid pitons to the top of the first red tower. At times the crack bottomed out, and many of the pitons were marginal. The next lead was mine, mostly aid to the top of the second red tower and then mixed aid and chimneying to a smallish ledge. Exposure was magnificent. Leaving fixed lines we rappelled to the base. Having taken "third man" turns at hauling food, water and bivouac gear, we were now ready for the final push the next morning. Any qualms about the weather were dispelled by the brilliant sunshine of a clear dawn on Mount Heyburn and the Aiguilles across Redfish Creek. We had soon prusiked up our four hanging lines. The climb continued up the same crack system for a lead and a half, largely on aid, but with occasional sections of chimneying and jam-cracks. We solved one major overhang with Chouinard bong-bongs. Then a straightforward 150-foot lead of direct aid took us to a spacious ledge, to which we hauled loads and where we lunched. The angle decreased some 10° and the next two pitches were enjoyable fifth class with occasional direct aid. A difficult ramp led to the top of a flake system, and two bolts were needed on a blank section. A 5.8 move on a loose flake was the last bad one of the day. After two more leads, time ran out, and rather than risk fumbling the last two leads to the summit in the dark, we bivouacked on an ample ledge. A final interesting lead capped with a strenuous overhanging piton problem took us to the summit. The climb had taken 110 pitons in addition to belay pitons and a few bolts to anchor fixed lines. We relaxed in the morning sunshine and descended the snowfields on the north side of the Dome back to camp.

FRED BECKEY

Wyoming — Teton

Ayres Crag Number Five. The most outstanding crag wall above Cascade Canyon is about three miles along the trail and is known as Ayres Crag Number Five. Its startling, nearly vertical, 1100-foot-high profile identifies it. Its sheer south face had been attempted once before, but the party retreated, feeling the overhangs would make it impossible beyond the second lead. On June 22 Steve Marts and I studied the wall with glasses and detected what appeared to be the only route through the great overhanging wall that traverses the face. After we started, however, the route looked hideous enough to compel us to use fixed ropes until we