

*Pingora, West Face.* On July 21 Fred Beckey, Court Richards and I left camp at Lonesome Lake for the west face of Pingora. Just before reaching Cirque Lake, we turned north and ascended to the col between Tiger and Pingora. From here we climbed up and slightly left. The first lead was a combination of free and direct-aid climbing. The second went along a short ledge and then up an open chimney, enjoyable fifth class. The next two leads were easy fifth class, with anchors for belays. Just below the summit we went under a huge rock and then up a 15-foot narrow vertical chimney. The standard descent was made by rappelling the south face. We used 20 pitons, 8 for direct aid. Total climbing time up and down was 8 hours. (NCCS III, 8, A3.)

RICHARD F. REAM

*Lizard Head, East Face.* Highest peak in the Cirque of the Towers region, 12,842-foot Lizard Head is a long scramble from Lonesome Lake, but the "east face, overlooking Bear Lake, is a series of overhanging upside-down ledges, impossible to contemplate". (Bonney's *Guide to the Wyoming Mountains and Wilderness Areas*, p. 145.) In past years I had studied the face but was still undecided whether to "contemplate" it seriously this season until after other successes in the area. The major crack system on the face ended in a horrible ceiling, and alternate routes seemed to be mainly intermittent cracks. Steve Marts and I, on July 22, thought we detected a new possibility of climbing directly up the very exposed nose of the face and of turning the immense overhanging nose-cap just on its north side. From an exposed ledge perhaps 150 feet beneath the summit an inhospitable flaring chimney seemed to provide an escape around the nose-cap, and if this failed, we thought we saw in our binoculars a thin line of cracks on the overhanging wall left of the chimney. In the afternoon we first did some steep unroped climbing along the eastern spur to the face, just above the glacier, and then we ascended a steepening slab, where we spent an hour attempting various routes upward. Finally Steve tackled a chimney system with some direct aid, using bong-bongs, and made a clever traverse right, where a short overhanging section took him to the orange-colored nose of the face. After some rope maneuvering, I was able to traverse into a dihedral that splits into the nose, and after two hours of hard direct-aid work, mostly overhanging, I was able to reach a belay ledge at rope's end. Leaving everything, we retreated to camp before darkness. In the morning we prusiked up fixed ropes and were surprised to discover more broken rock in the next two pitches. The key here was a hidden tunnel inside great blocks, exhaustingly narrow. When we came to grips with the final pitch and it became

evident that the escape chimney would be a wet horror, we tackled a direct route that was overhanging for 90 feet and then sloped back to free climbing for the remainder of the pitch. I had to place a line of knife-blade chrome-alloys in a hairline crack and finally four bolts to traverse the edge of the overhang into a chimney. A long reach saved the day, with a solid piton above the lip of the overhang. Climbing now became free, though very exposed. We reached the top just in time to descend ahead of a severe rainstorm.

FRED BECKEY

*South Watchtower, Cirque of the Towers.* On July 22 Court Richards and I left camp on Lonesome Lake to climb the east edge of the south face of South Watchtower in seven hours. The first five leads were free climbing, at first on somewhat loose flake granite which improved higher. Seven pitons were used on this part for anchors only. The last lead of 80 feet was the most difficult, calling for seven pitons, five for direct aid. One 2" bong-bong was left at the beginning of a delicate finger traverse on the last lead. (NCCS II, 6, A2.)

RICHARD F. REAM

*The "Plume".* After a late start from Lonesome Lake, Court Richards and I climbed the first three leads up the north face of the "Plume", traversing right on the left wall of the north couloir. We made two leads up easy ledges to the col between the "Plume" and Warbonnet and climbed south and east up a small ledge to the summit. We rappelled 150 feet from the summit to ledges in the north couloir, walked down the ledges and made a second rappel down the steep, snow-filled couloir to the rock west of the couloir. We used 10 pitons, 8 for anchors in the 5½-hour climb. (NCCS II, 5.)

RICHARD F. REAM

*New routes on Cairn Peak.* From Base Camp of the Rock Climbing Section of the San Diego Chapter, Sierra Club at the Titcomb Lakes, Cairn Peak was seen as a square-topped massif to the southwest. On August 7, two new routes were climbed on its north face. The first of these, the northwest buttress, is immediately right (west) of the prominent north snow couloir which can be seen from the Indian Pass trail or from Fremont Peak. The buttress was climbed by John and Jerry Hooper, Milo Prodanovich and Steve McKinney. The first two pitches were class 4 (Sierra Club classification system); the third pitch was a class 5.1 mantel and was followed by another class 4 pitch. At this point a corner was traversed (class 5.4) to the left (east) to a point overlooking the snow couloir, and