

*Mount Stuart, Direct North Buttress.* Fred Stanley and I made a variation of previous routes on this buttress, which consisted primarily of climbing head-on the 200-foot *great gendarme* high on the buttress. We used a crack system formed by a detached pillar on the first lead of almost continuous direct-aid climbing. From a belay on the pillar, more direct-aid climbing brought us to a recess in the face. After a final lead of free climbing, the relatively flat top of the buttress was reached. Twenty-five pitons were used on the buttress itself, including several "bong-bongs." The climb was completed on easy, but rather unstable granite along the ridge crest to the summit.

JIM WICKWIRE, *Sherpa Climbing Club*

*The Town Wall.* Behind the town of Index, northeast of Mount Index on the Stevens Pass highway, there are several large cliffs. The ones on the left are just quarries, and those on the right have too many bushes and trees; but the main, very wide cliff in the center has excellent rock and not too much vegetation except for moss and grass. This main cliff is highest near the right end, where for part of the year there is an active waterfall. The first person to climb it started his route up this longest part of the wall during dry weather. Only when he returned to finish it, did he learn it was in the path of the waterfall. So early last summer with the wall still unclimbed, John Holland and I bushwacked toward the bottom of the face. From the car we had chosen a route on the right part of the wall about halfway between the waterfall and a prominent mossy chimney to its left, about fifty yards left of the fall. The route was five and one half pitches long. On the first pitch we nailed up a wide although fortunately narrowing crack (the first piton was a three-inch bong-bong) to a ramp which led right a few feet to bushy ledges. From the left corner of the higher ledge we pitoned up a continuous crack to a semi-hanging belay stance immediately below an overhang. The third pitch took us up under the overhang, around its left side and then left to another crack, which we nailed for about 100 feet to a large ledge. The fourth pitch began with a short rappel off the left side of the ledge and then was mainly a left traverse on a bushy ledge to its end, where it intersected the previously mentioned mossy chimney. The fifth pitch climbed a twenty-foot crack at the end of the ledge, angled right to a ledge, climbed a ten-foot step with the aid of two knife-blades, and then angled right up some delicate slabs to a gully or chimney where a belay was set up a few feet higher. The last pitch simply went up the chimney above and over a few steps to the first good belay spot. About seventy pitons were placed, most of them angles between 1 and 2½ inches, and ¼-inch

bolts with hangers were left at the near-hanging belay, at the rappel spot, and at the belay in the chimney. Future ascents should be considerably more pleasant since we removed several pounds of dirt and moss from the piton cracks. The climb was a good exercise in placing pitons for direct aid. NCCS IV, F6, A3.

DAN DAVIS

*Mount Johannesberg, Northeast Face.* This face lies between the north-east-ridge route and the usual east-ridge route from the top of the famous 3000-foot Cascade-Johannesberg ice couloir, and was first completed August 29, 1963 by Jim Stuart, Dave Beckstead and me. At a level with the hanging glacier on the face, we left the ice couloir and crossed the glacier to our face route which soared upward for some 2500 feet. Several leads in a class 5 chute followed by several hundred feet of class 4 carried us upward onto the main portion of a great fan, from where a distinct ridge on the right brought us to a large platform at 7600 feet. About 200 feet higher we nailed in for a miserable bivouac, and the following morning completed the 400 feet to the summit over class 4 and 5 rock. The difficult and lengthy descent was made by way of the east ridge route to the Cascade-Jo col and a traverse to Cascade Pass via Gunsight Notch because of the unstable conditions in the ice couloir.

DON GORDON, *unaffiliated*

*Mount Booker, Northeast Face.* Unless you have climbed in Washington's Cascade Pass area you have undoubtedly never heard of Mount Booker as it is greatly overshadowed in height by its neighboring peaks and the only routes on it had previously been just long but easy walks. An exploratory trip had earlier shown the northeast face to be a predominantly rock face over 3000 feet high and averaging about 70°. The rock seemed to be typical Cascade rock, (which I don't feel is quite as rotten as most people claim,) with a prominent rib which seemed to present a reasonable route leading in a straight line up the center to the summit. Near the beginning of August from a camp near the head of Park Creek John Holland and I first worked our way up some easier cliffs to the small glacier at the base of the face and then ascended left up the glacier to an icefall, which was surprisingly large for the size of the glacier. We then made a frightening traverse to the right, through and under the icefall to a ledge leading onto the face. We traversed and climbed some steps in the ledge to about the second big tree, where the ledge made its first descent. Here we roped and climbed up and right for two leads to the rounded rib crest. Once on the rib we simply followed