

Denton and I found Dominion Peak (7200 feet) a moderate but very pleasant climb. Bryan and Harthill made the second ascent of Kates Needle (10,005 feet) on August 1 from the head of Flood Glacier via a 4000-foot buttress with a bivouac just below the north ridge; this ridge to the summit was badly corniced and required severe ice climbing. Denton, Thompson and I climbed Mount Gilroy (9400 feet) on August 2 via the same 4000-foot buttress and its south ridge; we ascended steep ice to the summit cone and then descended by the west flank. Apart from the days that delayed the flight in and two short days of heavy cloud and storm, which gave the Burkett party a hazardous return to Cache Camp on the day following their ascent, the weather remained generally excellent through to the second week of August. A high pressure area that centered over the Alaskan Panhandle brought a departure from the notoriously poor weather of the area.

DEREK FABIAN, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*

#### *Washington — Cascade Mountains*

*Mount Adams, Southwest Chute.* On the southwest side of Mount Adams, between the Avalanche Glacier and the regular south-side climbing route, lies a shallow gully called the Southwest Chute. In years long past, this was a finger of the Avalanche Glacier, as evidenced by the terminal moraine at its foot. The chute climbs steeply to the west of the false summit, and because of unstable rock, is best climbed in early summer when filled with snow. What is believed to be the first ascent of the Southwest Chute was accomplished June 20, by a party of Cascadians consisting of Tom Hargis, Jr., Charles Lyon, and Sean Maxwell. Total climbing time was 6 hours of which 4½ were needed for the chute.

LEX MAXWELL

*Mount Adams, Lava Glacier Headwall.* During mid-September Half Zantop and I decided to take another look at the Lava Glacier Headwall, which to the first ascent party (*A.A.J.*, 1961, p. 366) was a veritable "death trap." We reached the Lava Basin by mid-morning and began a careful examination of the two icefields on Mount Adams' north face. The easterly icefield used on the first ascent reached higher toward the summit dome but was dirty from rockfall; the westerly icefield ended high on the northwest ridge, while its uninterrupted slope remained free from signs of debris. Our preference was for the latter. Getting over the bergschrund was more like climbing through an icfall, but once on the wall we were in for a treat rarely had in the Cascade Range: aesthetic

exposure on hard ice. The headwall maintained a  $45^{\circ}$  angle, bulging somewhat in the middle. Ice screws were used throughout the next 1000 feet, with the front points of our crampons getting a continuous workout. Owing to the fact that the sun's rays rarely reach this slope we were not bothered by any rockfall, and yet rocks were flying regularly down the slope on our left. That afternoon we bivouacked on a ledge on top of the ridge and enjoyed a magnificent mountain sunset. The following morning we reached the 12,307-foot summit, eventually descending via the conventional northwest ridge.

ALEX BERTULIS, *unattached*

*Mount Adams, Pinnacle Glacier Headwall.* On June 26 Gary Faulkes and I packed into Killen Creek Meadow on the west side of Mount Adams to climb the northwest ridge route and to reconnoiter the Pinnacle Glacier Headwall, which lies between the northwest and west ridge of the mountain. The morning of the 27th dawned very cold and mostly clear of clouds. We crossed the lower Adams Glacier and then decided to traverse around the lower part of the northwest ridge before starting to climb it. This would give us a full face view of the Pinnacle Headwall. The sight that met our eyes was rather awesome; there stood our 3000-foot headwall with rotten rocks, cliffs, and outcrops protruding from its icy face. There was considerable evidence of rockfall at the base of the wall, however there were no crevasses or schrunds to be seen on the wall itself, the snow and ice surface being quite smooth and steep, and averaging about  $45^{\circ}$ . Although we were not fully prepared for such a wall as this, we felt a powerful urge to try it! Conditions were perfect; it was very cold, well frozen, and in the brief 20 minutes or so that we had watched and listened, there was no sign of rockfall. We made our decision on the spot, with a few reservations: once we started we would keep moving, and if we encountered too much rockfall we would escape by traversing left onto the northwest ridge. We decided to climb unroped for the sake of speed as we felt there was no place that one could not stop a slip with an ice-axe arrest. We cramponed steadily and almost reached the halfway point before the first falling stone whined past us, which missed us by 50 feet. It was about the size of a grapefruit and traveling so fast it appeared only a blur. Twice more in the next thousand feet we were treated to the high-pitched whine of stones as they sped past. Finally, after climbing a frozen waterfall of some 30 feet in height, we began to feel we would make it all the way. We observed a heavy mass of rockfall about one hundred yards above and a little to our right just before we