

buttress of the west peak several years ago. We returned this year to climb the longer northern face of the east peak. On the morning of August 31 we left our campsite at the highest Bench Lake and climbed the rockslide to the foot of the 1200-foot final wall. The first pitch turned out to be one of the finest—sound granite, with some exacting and difficult free climbing, led well by Jerry. After being stopped by *verglas* in a dank, evil-looking chimney, we climbed around a corner into a new chimney, that eventually required a few pitons for aid before going free again. The route worked left onto a buttress that gave us two pitches of beautiful climbing, then into a chimney that had both ice and rotten rock. Several pitons of aid took me out of trouble, to a tiny belay platform; here Jerry traversed right and found an overhanging pitch around a gigantic chockstone that went free only because of the clever use of handholds. Gully climbing then took us to a final headwall, where sound rock again led to the false summit; this pitch was partly aid and partly free on a system of vertical cracks. We then climbed over several short pinnacles to the highest point of the east peak. We used about 35 pitons on the new route.

FRED BECKEY

*Iowa Mountaineers' Sawtooth Outing.* During August the Iowa Mountaineers had their fourth outing in the Sawtooth Range. A number of new routes were made. Jim Kolocotronis, Michael Coriden, Bob Christianson, and Bob Lipshultz made a new variation up the west face of Grand Mogul. Harvey Carter, Skip Luken, William Knowler, Jim and John F. Ebert made a new technical route from the north saddle of Elephant Perch. Led by Carter, five made a new route from the east of Pack Rat and climbed an unclimbed tower south of Warbonnet, the first spire south of Silocone.

### *Wyoming — Tetons*

*Grand Teton, West Face of the Enclosure.* For those acquainted with the esoterica of the Grand Teton, one of the most interesting regions lies west and north of the Enclosure, the high point west of the Upper Saddle. Two features had attracted my eye in previous years: first, a distinct ridge rises from the lower portion (9600-foot level) of Dartmouth Basin to join the Valhalla Traverse Ledge north of the southwest ridge; second, the unexplored upper west face of the Enclosure rising directly above the Traverse Ledge. A combination of these features would allow a new route. While the lower, 2000-foot ridge appeared to be easy, the

upper face was obviously difficult and there was the problem of distinctness. The face is bordered by the southwest and northwest ridges which converge to the summit of the Enclosure. Would it be possible to avoid these ridges and yet make a natural route?

On August 13 John Whitesel and I set out to investigate this route, establishing the night before what should have been an excellent camp in a fine talus cave in the meadows of the lower Dartmouth Basin. Rain in the night proved that the cave leaked dreadfully and there was little sleep. With an early start we found the three towers of the ridge not difficult but lengthy and occasionally very rotten. From the notch behind the third tower a long section of slabs led up and onto the Valhalla Traverse Ledge. After lunch on this ledge we tackled the problems above. The first 500 feet were ascended using a connecting series of ledges, slabs, and short chimneys near the middle of the face. The connections were adequate to keep the difficulty from becoming excessive; two small snowfields were avoided using scree-covered ledges. The uppermost of these ledges leads left (north) toward the col behind the second large tower of the northwest ridge. From the Valhalla Traverse Ledge we had during lunch studied the chimney, containing a large black chockstone, on the right side of a small buttress which projects from the base of the vertical section above. After traversing right (south) along the final slab-ledge past this buttress we climbed this chimney with a mixture of aid and free climbing. Using more of the same combination we continued up and slightly left in another chimney to a stance just below and to the right of an obvious but strenuous hand traverse. After passing this ten-foot obstacle, we climbed an easier 40-foot section to the base of the final open book with cracks in its left wall. Climbing this with aid we finally reached the top of the vertical section of the west face and were greatly relieved to see the rock lying back at a more friendly angle. A one rope-length zig up to the right was followed by a zag back into the last large chimney capped by a huge, black-bottomed chockstone. Exiting from under the chockstone on the left, we were then on the final easy rock leading to the summit. The climb exceeded our expectations in that the route which we originally picked out from the valley floor was followed exactly, never close to either of the bounding ridges. It was a beautiful climb on excellent rock, on the upper wall, but long — we did not reach the summit on the Grand until 6:30 P.M. The difficulty was III, F6, A2. It is perhaps a pity that the climb did require, from us anyway, more aid than is involved in any other route on the Grand. Such is probably the course of future new routes on this mountain, however, since most of the

natural avenues have now been preempted by the twenty-two existing routes.

LEIGH N. ORTENBURGER

*Mount Owen, Northwest Face.* It is a characteristic of mountains and their climbers that routes are developed most extensively on the side offering the easiest approach. This would seem to be the principal explanation for the unclimbed status of the northwest face of Mount Owen as late as 1965. This major, terraced face rises from the lower Valhalla Canyon to the last large tower on the north ridge of Mount Owen. It is bounded on the right (south) by Serendipity Arête and on the left (north) by the Northwest Couloir, the deep chute which defines the northwest ridge and separates the Great Yellow Tower from the remainder of the north ridge above. It was August 4 when Herbert Swedlund and I set out to try this face, which we had studied during a previous ascent of the northwest ridge of the Grand Teton. Leaving in the early afternoon of the 3rd, we crossed the cold Cascade Creek and struggled past the bush to the entrance to Valhalla Canyon. In order to establish as high a bivouac site as possible, we took the snow-filled couloir just to the right of the main Northwest Couloir to pass the first small cliffband onto the first talus/scree slope. We leveled a more or less comfortable site near the base of the prominent waterfall in the cliffband above. Starting at the first light in the morning this cliffband was found to be easy (F3) via the rock between the waterfall and the Northwest Couloir. The next scree slope was crossed to the small buttress which led to the beginning of the main wall. The first serious pitch led up steep slabs to the right to a chimney, whose left wall yielded access to further slabs leading back to the left. Scrambling and easy climbing up and left then took us to a large ledge cutting horizontally across the face. We traversed right on this ledge until about 100 feet past the large, obvious jamcrack which can be seen from the valley floor as the only break in this portion of the face. The next pitch involved a hand traverse back left to the crack which was climbed (F6) to a large ledge leading up to the right. A short chimney at the right end of this ledge (F5) took us onto the final large ledge below the upper wall. The immense, yellow flake which we saw above this ledge as we traversed along it to the south was not attempted although there is a recess behind it. Instead we continued along this ledge until a moderate vertical chimney was found in black rock. This proved deceptive since the first 50 feet were indeed moderate but near the end of the long rope-length the climbing became a strenuous F6. At this point