

July 6, using a series of short walls, ramps, and a final steep crack system. NCCS II, F7 or 8.

FRED BECKEY

Squaretop. The right skyline of Squaretop when viewed from the Green River Lakes presents a 1800-foot sweep of excellent rock. When we arrived below the buttress after a hard approach, my brother Greg, Kent Christensen and I looked up in despair. There was a beautiful line in a giant dihedral just right of the buttress crest, but we were ill-prepared for what looked like the summit dihedral of the Nose of El Cap and we had only the afternoon and the next day to climb. We decided to "have a look anyway" and ended up making one of the finest free climbs we had ever done. Three or four hundred feet of third class at the bottom of the buttress led to the base of the dihedral. We made the mistake of staying left of the dihedral in cracks on the wall for the first pitch and had to make two aid moves on the third pitch. The next party will do well to stay in the bottom of the dihedral from the start where it appears very reasonable. We bivouacked on a good ledge at the top of the third pitch, and the next day climbed varied and always challenging free climbing to reach the summit at seven P.M. We placed a handful of pitons, but future parties should find a complete assortment of nuts will do the job. NCCS V, F 9.

JEFF LOWE

New Routes in Peak Lake Cirque, Upper Green River. Stan Hilbert accompanied me on these climbs. *Sulphur Peak, North Face:* The route followed the prominent couloir leading to a chimney/crack line until 150 feet below a big roof in the crack where an ascending traverse afforded access to a rib which we climbed for a pitch. We pendulumed west into a groove of loose blocks, which we climbed to a small overhang. A delicate slab pitch led to an easy gully and the summit. In the chimney/crack verglas forced us to use aid in places. August 8; 1600 feet; 12 hours. NCCS F7, A1. *Ladd Peak, North Couloir:* On August 10 we approached from upper Peak Lake, traversing around the west side of Mount Whitecap and crossing Stone Hammer Pass. We traversed snow and rock on Ladd to its north side. The snow and ice couloir rises 2000 feet from the Twin Lakes at the foot of the north face. There was some rockfall and avalanche danger. NCCS II; 3 hours. *Split Mountain, South Face:* The western peak of Split Mountain presents a complex south face. At its western end are three obvious crack systems which split the lower face. On August 11 we followed the middle system for two pitches (F6) and then took an easier diagonal line of weakness to the right across the face for four or five pitches to gain the arête which overlooks the couloir which splits the mountain. We climbed the arête on the right by an easy crack and groove system to the west ridge. We

then scrambled 200 feet to the summit. NCCS I, F6; 3 hours. *Mount Buchtel, Southwest and Southeast Ridges*. On August 7 we climbed from the lake up the southwest ridge to a prominent yellow gendarme and a narrow ridge. We continued up to join the southeast ridge around 12,800 feet and followed this to the summit. A rusty can contained the information that Curt Fettner and William Clemons climbed the north face on September 18, 1937 from Peak Lake! The east face and north ridge also had ascents recorded in the can. This information is not found in Bonney's guidebook.

WILLIAM MARCH, *Idaho State University Outdoor Program*

Mount Helen, Northwest Ridge of the First Tower. On August 29 Dennis Turville, Lynn Wheeler and I started up two pitches of unnecessary climbing to gain the ridge, which we could have reached more easily via the gully between the first and second towers. We followed the entire ridge directly with many large belay ledges atop pillars. The last two pitches presented the most difficulty, involving some aid up slightly overhanging sections and a spectacular mantel. NCCS III, F8, Al. 11 pitches.

DEAN HANNIBAL, *Unaffiliated*

Colorado

Notchtop Mountain, East Face. The first ascent of the exposed, seven-pitch "White Room" route was made in June by Roger Briggs and me. It meanders up the very steep and featureless wall to the right of "Optimus," finishing in a prominent dihedral. The climbing, route-finding and protection provided varied but fairly continuous challenges. We had to traverse a full rope-length, first left and then right, to avoid a large ceiling halfway up the wall. The route was done without hammers in nine hours. NCCS IV, F10. To the right of this route the east face terminates in a large, broken buttress, the lower half of which is formed by a detached, pinnacle-like rib. In August Dakers Gowans and I ascended the indistinct northeast corner of this rib after several hundred feet of steep third-class climbing in a prominent gully and chimney system. Two long complicated leads (F6 and F7) took us to a ledge below the smooth, east-facing summit headwall. The final pitch ascended the headwall until a hand traverse rightwards gained a dihedral, up which we jammed. We used nuts up to three inches. NNCS II, F8.

LAWRENCE HAMILTON, *Unaffiliated*

Bridalveil Falls. In January Mike Weis and I climbed Bridalveil Falls near Telluride. Thin, brittle ice with overhanging bulges combined to make the climb technically the most difficult ice climb we had