spectacular spire had been climbed since its first ascent in 1949 by Fred Beckey and Harry King (*A.A.J.*, 1950, pages 441-450). On July 7, we attempted Devil's Paw. After climbing through a very complex 2500-foot icefall on the northeast side of the peak we turned back less than 500 feet below the top due to extremely loose rock on the summit pyramid. After waiting out yet another three-day storm we skiied and hiked across the icefield to Juneau via Hades Highway, the southwest branch of the Taku Glacier, Ptarmigan Valley and Lemon Creek trail in four days. The portion of this route between the east ridge of Nugget Mountain and the lower Lemon Creek Glacier would be both difficult and dangerous in poor weather.

WALTER VENNUM

Washington—Cascade Mountains

Nooksack Tower, Winter Ascent. Well, "the Devil had fallen," but not the Demon. Nooksack Tower awaited a winter ascent. Dan Cauthorn and Bob Crawford had attempted it the previous winter. Seven stormy days inside their tent was the reward. However, their ordeal was not over when they got down. A rather large bill awaited them for services rendered, or not rendered. It depends on your point of view. Personally, we feel that winter climbing in the Cascades is justified, and we resent persons in the Bellingham Mountain Rescue Unit who advised the sherrif's department that it is not. In early February 1983 Kit Lewis, Tim Wilson and we two set out to give it a try. The approach went well, and in two days we reached 6500 feet across from the Tower. From our camp, Nooksack Tower plastered in winter snow looked very impressive indeed. What was it that Fred Beckey said? "Mammoth rock tower, one of the most difficult summits." We retired to the tent to talk about which route to try, deciding on the easiest one possible, up the gully. At five A.M. we set off across the glacier with the weather looking good for at least one more day. We reached the base of the tower shortly after daybreak. The gully was straightforward and by eleven A.M. we were standing in the sun eating lunch at the base of the tower's east ridge. Two pitches of steep rock climbing (difficult to protect) were the crux of the climb. Above, another snow gully led to the summit with one final rock pitch. On top, in the sun once again, there was just enough room for the four of us. A spectacular place to spend the night, complete with views of the northern lights. In the morning we watched little wisps of clouds forming around the higher peaks. The high-pressure system was breaking down, but it had lasted long enough to give us some memorable experiences.

GREG COLLUM and JIM NELSON

Grey Beard, North Face. On a one-day excursion on May 9, my brother Carl and I climbed this face. The route begins up the obvious central couloir to gain Grey Beard's lower snowfield. Climbing up and left, we found a hidden gully which allowed access to the central face and bypassed the first rock band. Then

by traversing right, we encountered the crux while ascending the second rock band (loose snow over rock). Above that, a couloir was followed to the summit. Conditions varied from excellent water-ice to unconsolidated snow on rock, at a constant 60° to 70°. Grade III or IV.

GORDY SKOOG

Dragontail, Northwest Face. In early April John Wasson and I climbed a route on Dragontail to the right of Serpentine Arête. We started the climb on a thin ice smear, and the next four pitches were on good ice leading up to a big snowfield. At the top of the snowfield we climbed a hard mixed pitch, then up and left to meet Serpentine two mixed pitches from the top. We spent the night on the summit. Grade IV.

TIM WILSON

Stuart Range. Several new routes were climbed in the Stuart Range. The west face of Colchuck Balanced Rock (Grade IV, 5.10, A2) was climbed in early August by Mark Twight and Mark Johnston. This steep wall is seen from the Colchuck Lake area. The line follows a vaguely direct line in the center of the face. Mark Twight reports 12 pitches of mostly superb crack climbing. The route turns the huge roof, at half height, to the left (A2 hooks and Friends). Above the roof, a 5.9 hand crack leads to another roof, a hideously loose squeeze chimney and another roof before two easier pitches end on the summit. In early July the prominent pillar to the left of the Beckey-Niccoli route on the northeast face of the false summit on Mount Stuart was climbed by Kit Lewis and me. We spent two days on the climb, climbing a spectacular crack system on the right (north) wall of the pillar. Grade V, 5.10, A1.

JIM NELSON

Fernow, North Face Ice Apron Variation. The north face of Fernow was climbed rather indirectly in 1961 by the Prater-Wickwire party, the last 500 feet of the headwall being avoided by a westward traverse. On a cold September 30 Dave Beckstead, Mark Hutson, and I found the ice apron (finger) in good condition as we cramponed to its head. A snow-and-ice gully bore leftward, from where we climbed steep, loose and cold rock to just beneath the summit. By taking the boat up Lake Chelan, the church bus to Holden Village, and a route along the east side of Big Creek, we made the round trip in a comfortable three days.

FRED BECKEY

Static Slab, Mount Stickney Area. On May 18 Dave Johnson, Dave Pickard and I made the first ascent of the Static Slab on Static Peak, some two miles north of Mount Stickney. It is an excellent 800- to 1000-foot quartz diorite