Couloir, we descended to where we could start traversing toward the Girth Pillar access ramp, which we climbed for one pitch. Here, the approach ramp intersects the pillar, and we headed left up a corner, remaining left of the pillar all the way up the false summit face. With the exception of the third pitch in the corner, which went almost all on aid, we free climbed mixed snow and rock. (IV, 5.9, A2.)

MARK BEBIE

*Colonial Peak, New Route in Winter*. On February 8 and 9, Marc Twight, John Stoddard, Monte Westlund, and I climbed a direct line on the north face of Colonial Peak. Having seen this face towering 2000 meters above the North Cascades Highway for many years, many climbers speculated about the possibility of a cold-weather route. Instead of using the left-trending gully at the head of the basin that Bill Pilling and I climbed on a previous attempt in December, we paired off and opted for two different lines of ice which led from the basin up to our bivouac at about 5000 feet. Our routes involved five or six pitches of ice. The next morning, we aimed for a 50-foot-high ice curtain in mid-face directly below the summit. Above and to the right of this feature are two prominent ice pillars. We climbed these, interconnecting snowfields and one short mixed chimney to gain the summit. Access to the second pillar was tricky, but Monte found a traverse into it from the left. Marc and I climbed a spectacular direct finish under some huge pillowy cornices. This last pitch was composed of the same scary shallow sugar snow John and I had found on Johannesburg in December. We reached the summit five hours out from our bivouac. Since Monte and John third-classed the route, they did not do the direct finish and summited an hour earlier. We descended the west face and reached the highway by 4:30 P.M.

MARK BEBIE

*Travel in the Austera Peak Region and Primus Peak, North Ridge*. From the southwest, access to the northeast rampart of Austera Peak is a logistical hassle. On September 7 I climbed Austera Peak, then down-climbed toward the northwest, to the first major notch. Here, I descended the 45° snow-and-ice slope to the North Klawatti Glacier. The bergschrund crossing was easy. I then climbed Primus Peak. Where the North Klawatti Glacier joins the west ridge, I descended a couloir to reach the unnamed glacier north of Primus, which I traversed to the north ridge. The 1000-foot ridge is made up of blocks and towers of good rock, but is somewhat loose. I stayed on the crest unless forced to either side by difficulties. Toward the top, the ridge goes through a section of banded rock common in this region. This provided enjoyable climbing to low fifth class. Time: 1 hour on the ridge. I returned by the same route. It is unlikely that this route of approach has been used before.

MARK BEBIE