

pitch at 5.12d. The fourth pitch was climbed via one of the most rotten and dangerous chimneys I have ever seen. Knowing this would turn off any future ascents, we moved the pitch out onto the main face, and it was easily free climbed on big holds over steep rock at 5.10b. Pitch five could not avoid a Teton choss gully, and it was 5.4 at the hardest, but pitch six was worth putting up with it. The pitch goes up a corner system then moves out onto a clean face. The upper wall is run out and perhaps 5.11b, though anyone who can handle pitch three will have no problem with this one.

We set this route with the hope that others like it will be established in the Tetons. Rather than pick the line of least resistance, we picked a line that would resist. The route is thus somewhat physically challenging as a rock climb. Also, the route was established to be a physical challenge, and not something where death constantly lurks in the back of your mind. Some of the pitches (though not the crux) utilize permanent protection that was placed on rappel. Our goal was to establish a fun but challenging free climb in the mountains, not to start an ethics debate that should have been over with long ago. Dubbed *Yodel This* in jest with the local climbing publication *The Mountain Yodel*, the route goes at .10c, .7, .12d or 5.11b A0, 5.10b, 5.4, 5.11b R. All anchors, save for pitch five's, incorporate permanent protection and chains. The route was established by Sam Lightner, Jr. and Mike Fischer with help from Steve Bechtel, Shep Vail, and Susie Schenk, and was completed in the fall of '96.

SAM LIGHTNER, JR., *unaffiliated*

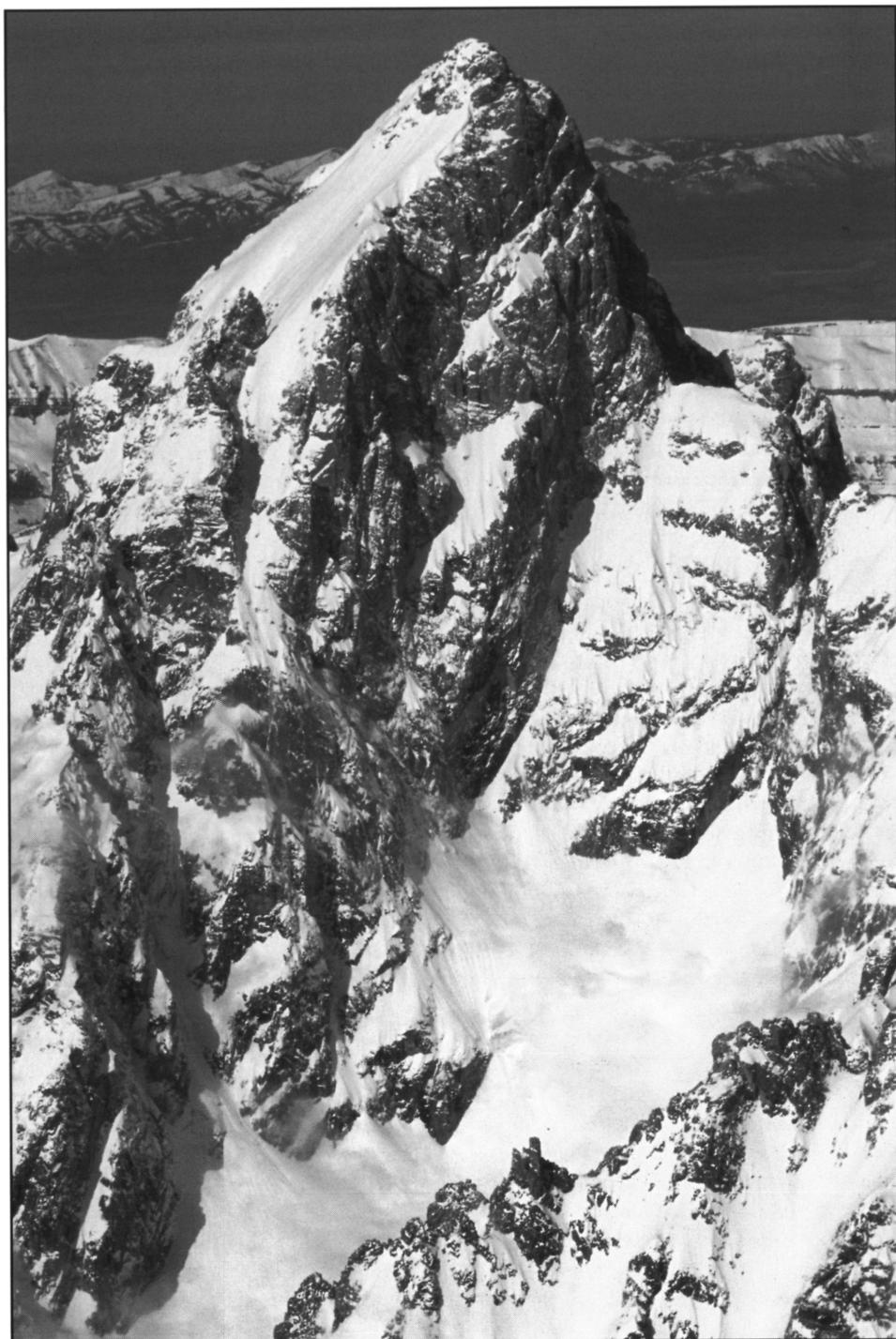
*The Grand Teton, Hossack-MacGowen Couloir, First One-Day Winter Ascent and First Ski Descent.* On February 16, Hans Johnstone and I started from the Cottonwood Canyon parking lot hoping to climb the Hossack-MacGowen Couloir to the summit of the Grand Teton and descend it on skis. Tom Turiano, Stephen Koch, and Jeff Fell are some of the most notable names on the list of ski mountaineers who had tried skiing the Hossack-MacGowen on previous occasions. They and others made their attempt in the spring or early summer, often climbing the entire route only to find soft, runneled, unreliable snow and ice. Hans and I were the first to attempt it in winter conditions.

We began our ascent at 3:30 a.m. carrying our alpine skis and ski boots on our backs and wearing mountaineering boots and randonnéé skis. The mountaineering gear performed critically through technical sections of the ascent while the alpine ski gear performed optimally through the steepest and most exposed sections of the descent. Once we were on the terminal moraine of the Teton Glacier the snow was firm enough to walk on with crampons, allowing us to jettison the randonnéé skis and pick them up on the descent.

We reached the Teton Glacier just as the morning sun spilled brilliant pink and orange down Mount Owen and the Grand's north face. After a couple of hours of steady slogging up firm, consolidated, chalky snow, we faced the cave traverse from the lower to upper couloir. Unroped for speed, we traversed across thin ramps of snow up and right to a short chimney filled with steep snow. From the top of the chimney we climbed easy but exposed and unprotected rock slabs to a final tongue of snow that led to the apron of snow which, around the corner to climber's right, connected to the bottom of the upper couloir.

The rest of the ascent entailed trudging up perfect snow through the upper couloir and across the east face snow field to a huge wind-scoured groove below a rock feature known as the Horse

*The Grand Teton, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. The Hossack-MacGowen Couloir descends from the summit block down the edge of the east face snowfield into the prominent couloir, then traverses left before continuing in a partially hidden couloir to a snow cone at the bottom. Bob Woodall*



on the mountain's south side. We were 50 or 60 vertical feet below the summit, which was too rocky and wind scoured to descend on skis. The time was around 1:30 p.m.

The descent back across the east face and down the upper couloir offered incomparable skiing amidst spectacular exposure. The steady 50-to 55-degree pitch of the couloir kept our attention, though its width and the perfect snow enabled us to link turns the entire distance to its termination above a 1,500-foot cliff.

From there we traversed (skier's right) around two corners and across an apron of snow just about steep enough to keep our up-hill knee within biting distance of our chins. Near the end of our traverse we set up a half-rope rappel off a snow bollard that dropped us over an eight-foot vertical snow and rock step. A second half-rope rappel off a piton diagonaled down and to the skier's right across a four-foot runnel, and a final half-rope rappel dropped us over a 15- or 20-foot vertical rock corner, depositing us 60 or 70 feet above where we traversed (climber's right) on the snow ramps during the ascent.

Several turns down some of the steepest snow yet brought us into a 150-foot section of couloir narrow enough to force us to side-slip. Beyond that we skied for another couple of hundred feet before making one last 40- to 50-foot rappel over an 80-degree ice bulge. The skiing became easier below that as the couloir widened and the pitch eased, bringing us to the final five-foot drop over the bergschrund near the base of the couloir. We arrived back at the Teton Glacier around 4:15 p.m. and made it to the car by around 6 p.m.

This was the first successful ski descent of the complete Hossack-MacGowen Couloir. Also, according to Renny Jackson but unbeknownst to Hans and I at the time, it may have been the first successful winter ascent.

MARK NEWCOMB, *unaffiliated*

*Grand Teton, Otterbody Snowfield, First Ski Descent.* The successful descent of the Hossack-MacGowen on the north face of the Grand Teton in February left at least one major unskied route still open off the summit: the Otterbody Snowfield route. Exploiting a tenuous link between the East Face Snowfield and the Otterbody Snowfield, the window of opportunity for this route may be one of the shortest of all the other routes. Steve Shea, whose experience skiing the Grand Teton is hardly insubstantial, helped spark the notion in the mind of Doug Coombs that the Otterbody may offer the cleanest line of descent off the Grand Teton, requiring the fewest rappels and least amount of downclimbing.

Coombs made an attempt with Andrew McLean in February, one day before Hans Johnstone and I skied the Hossack-MacGowen. Deep, potentially hazardous snow turned them back near the top of the Otterbody.

After a wet, stormy spring, skies over the Tetons finally turned blue around May 30. Doug and I knew we would have a window of perhaps one or two days between when the snow on the east face firmed up enough to safely ski and when the intense June sun would melt the section connecting the east face to the Otterbody Snowfield. Fortunately, we both had enough time off to attempt the descent at exactly the right moment. On June 2 we over-nighted on the Lower Saddle, starting our summit bid around 4:30 a.m. We made good time climbing easy 70- to 75-degree ice up the lower Stettner Couloir and through a ramp connecting it with the bottom of the Ford Couloir. Kicking steps up the Ford, we found crusty snow barely strong enough to support a skier's weight. We made the summit around 7:30 a.m. and began skiing by eight. We were worried that any later start would allow the snow in the couloir linking the east face and the