

VARIOUS NOTES

UNITED STATES

A Night on Rainier. The first post-war ascent of Mt. Rainier was made on 31 May 1946 by M. M. Miller, Dee Molenaar and C. M. Molenaar, as a "conditioning climb" for their activities on Mt. St. Elias in June and July. The trio made the ascent on the first day of the 1946 season via Camp Muir and Cadaver Gap, going on to the summit on the upper Ingraham Glacier. The plan was to make some preliminary tests of equipment to be used in Alaska. For that reason permission was obtained to remain on the summit overnight. In late evening a storm hit the 14,000-ft. level and compelled the group to take refuge in one of the crater ice caves melted out by slowly emitted volcanic steam. Two attempts were made to get out of the crater and descend to a lower level, out of reach of the storm. Winds of over 100 miles per hour drove the party back to the cave. But, with sleeping bags soaked inside and sheathed in ice outside, the party found it imperative to force its way down to Muir the next afternoon, having experienced conditions infinitely worse than those encountered on any of its combined 19 previous ascents of the mountain and than any of the wind conditions later encountered in the St. Elias Range.

M. M. M.

Nooksack Tower: First Ascent. Nooksack Tower (8500 ft.) is a very prominent upthrust on the E. ridge of Mt. Shuksan, somewhat resembling in position the Aig. Noire de Péteret on Mont Blanc. The climb has repulsed attempts since 1939.

On 5 July 1946 Fred Beckey and Clifford Schmidtke left camp (3000 ft.) on the N. fork of the Nooksack River and by a previously reconnoitered route reached the bergschrund at the foot of the final N. face (6500 ft.) at 10.30 A.M. Schmidtke worked over the bergschrund, and Beckey kicked steps 800 ft. up a 50° ice couloir on the N. face. Snow conditions were dangerous, and occasional rock falls harassed the party. The climbers then worked westward into a hidden rock trough and donned tennis shoes. The final 1200 ft. involved fourth-class climbing along the north arête. Care and continual belaying were necessary. One safety piton was used. The pair reached the summit at 3.30 P.M. and then had an uneventful descent, rappelling from pitons placed in the rock wall at the flank of the couloir. They reached camp in the valley at 10 P.M.

F. B.

Golden Horn: First Ascent. On 18 September 1946 the first ascent of Golden Horn (8400 ft.) in the N. E. Cascades was accomplished by Fred Beckey, Keith Rankin and Charles Welsh. The approach was from Horseheaven Camp, ten miles from the Hart's Pass Road, via the brushy valley of the upper W. fork of the