

left unfinished because of violent thunderstorms. On June 17th Widrig, Hieb, Matthews and Grande made one of the highlights of the trip in climbing Heyburn's W. peak—for which Underhill had suggested rope-throwing as a possible recourse. From a base ledge on the N. face, the party initiated a rather complicated maneuver. Hieb placed pitons for aid, in minute cracks. When these ran out, he managed to lasso a horn of rock 10 ft. above his head. Widrig then swung up, using Prusik slings, and finished the climb with pitons. Nine pitons were used for tension, and several more for protection.

On the 19th the party made ascents of the three main summits of the Splinter Towers, the only important climbing area between Heyburn and Alpine Lake. Holben and Schwabland climbed the highest—Splinter Tower (10,200 ft.)—by an eight-lead, fourth-class route on the S. face. They found excellent granite. Beckey and King climbed The Thimble and The Steeple. King led The Thimble, using direct aid once on the summit block. Pitons were not used on The Steeple: when they were needed, there was a dearth of suitable cracks. Beckey led a route on the W. ridge involving a most difficult friction slab. The summit had room for only one at a time.

F. B.

*Wyoming: New Route on the S. Face of Grand Teton.* On 3 July 1948 Fred Beckey, Ralph Widrig and Graham Matthews reached the Lower Saddle at 7.00 A.M., hoping to make a new route up the pronounced couloir between the complete Exum and the Middle S. ridges. In an hour they followed the dike passage and roped. In several hundred feet, close to the lower Exum ridge, difficulties began. They removed several pitons left by Petzoldt in a previous attempt (*Appalachia*, June 1940) and, led by Widrig in sneakers, climbed diagonally to the right on a high-angle face that required protective pitons. A sharp gully, and then a slab, proved difficult and demanded safety pitons. Matthews, in boots, climbed an overhanging ice gully; then Widrig led a steep fifth-class rope length, reaching the base of the prominent snow field at 11.30 A.M. Beckey led the rest of the way, in conditions more dangerous than difficult. On account of avalanche danger, belays had to be made against the rock wall. Once a 200-ft. lead was necessary. After

reaching the summit at 1.30 P.M., the party descended the Owen route. An icy wind and quantities of verglas on the rock had made the entire ascent additionally severe.

F. B.

*Wyoming: Southern Wind River Range.* Late in June 1948 Ralph Widrig, Fred Beckey, Graham Matthews and Harry King hiked from Big Sandy Opening to a base camp at Shadow Lake. Heavy snow, freshly fallen, stalled climbing; but on the 27th Widrig and King made the first ascent of the granitic 11,500-ft. Overhanging Tower, climbing a route on the 800-ft. S.W. face that required pitons for both protection and aid. Having been stopped by verglas on the seemingly more promising N.W. face, they descended to steeper but drier granite to the S. and climbed to the summit in four hours.

F. B.

*Mountaineering in the National Parks.* Interest of the National Park Service in mountain climbing in Park areas has steadily increased. The responsibility of Park personnel in encouraging safe climbing and in carrying out rescues is now more clearly recognized. Those in authority at National Park Service Headquarters, as well as various Park superintendents, have shown their interest in the work of the Guides Committee and the Safety Committee of the A.A.C. Most important, this year for the first time a mountain climbing and rescue training school was held for Park rangers from all National Parks. The course was well planned and carried out, though the allotted time was brief. The A.A.C. was represented at this meeting by Robert Craig, George MacGowan and Dee Molenaar. A report by Dee Molenaar follows:

"On 13 September 1948 the National Park Service inaugurated its first service-wide school in mountain climbing and rescue training. Region Four was given the honor of conducting the school on the terrain of Mt. Rainier, Washington. Owing to the fact that mountaineering problems are of mutual concern to many cooperating agencies, invitations to participate in the training program were extended to the U. S. Forest Service, the U. S. Army, Navy, and Coast Guard, the National Ski Patrol, the Seattle Mountaineers, and the American Alpine Club. With a list of 45 representatives present from the above-named organizations, coming from as far