

Needle Spires, appear impossible. If in later seasons they prove to be climbable, even 'illegitimately,' these certainly will be spectacular ascents. North of the Mole, a 1000-ft. granite monolith with sheer sides, known as 'The Great Blockhouse,' was subjected to a cursory reconnaissance which convinced the climbers that, if the ascent was at all possible, it would take days of hardware climbing. Unquestionably it is one of the most difficult peaks in the Craggs—and the United States."

Baker Rock, West Virginia. On the slopes of Elkhorn Ridge, a few miles E. of Petersburg, W. Va., erosion has exposed a remarkable formation of cliffs and pinnacles, locally known as Baker Rock. This quartzite expanse for many years excited the curiosity of Washington climbers on their way to Seneca Rock, Nelson Rock and Hellhole, but these other objectives always received prior consideration. Then, on 17 May 1946, Don Hubbard and Sam Moore made the first serious investigation of Baker Rock. They climbed three of the lower spires and the S. peak. On 6 September 1948 these rocks received some further attention. Jane Showacre, Mary Neilan and Arnold Wexler attempted a route up the S. chimney, but were turned back by the difficulties of the upper section. On 13 November 1948 Don Hubbard and Dick Goldman traversed the ridge N. of the main gap. On the next day the two pioneered an elegant route up the main face just below the highest point. It took four pitons, and 40 vertical ft., for them to reach the first satisfactory belaying point. During the same afternoon Arthur Lembeck, Harold Drewes and Arnold Wexler returned to the S. chimney. Back-and-knee technique took the party up 125 ft. to a point where the walls of the chimney opened wide into two isolated peaks. Choosing the southern pinnacle, the party traversed to the sheer front face and then ascended to the summit, some 200 ft. above the base. On top there was hardly room for two people.

Baker Rock has great possibilities and certainly ranks in the class with Seneca Rock, Nelson Rock and Champe Rock.

A. W.

UNITED STATES: ACTIVITIES OF THE CLUBS

Guidebook for Mountains of the Northwest. The A.A.C. looks forward to completion in the near future of the new *Climber's*

Guide to the Cascade and Olympic Mountains. In about 275 pages, the volume will describe approximately 1000 routes on some 500 peaks. It will include 20 maps, 57 line cuts and eight full-page half-tones. In format, it will be the same as the *Climber's Guide to the Rocky Mountains of Canada*. The price for general distribution will be \$3.50.

A.A.C. in Denver. On 5 May 1949 the Colorado members of the A.A.C., with guests from the Colorado Mountain Club, gathered for dinner at the University Club in Denver, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wood, who stopped off for a day on their way to Alaska. Those who had long looked forward to showing the West to the Woods, and the Woods to the West, found themselves far more successful in the latter undertaking, for a heavy rain fell all day and not a mountain was to be seen. Forty people attended the dinner and enjoyed "Operation Snow Cornice," the film of the Wood expedition to Alaska in 1948.

The Colorado Section of the A.A.C. is not organized in any formal sense; it has no fixed schedule of meetings, no dues, no official projects. The 30 members, however, are a congenial group and often meet informally. Many of them are closely involved in the affairs of the Colorado Mountain Club, of which Henry Buchtel is president and Evelyn Runnette secretary. A project in which our own members are taking an active interest is the new C.M.C. guidebook to the Colorado Rockies.

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Mountaineers. At the time of going to press, we have unfortunately received no summary of the year 1948 from the Mountaineers, Inc. On the basis of evidence to be found in other communications, one surmises that excellent proof of continued activity is to be found on numerous summits in the Cascades.*

Mazamas. The Mazamas, of Portland, Ore., held their 55th Annual Outing in 1948, from July 25th to August 8th, at Park Creek Pass in the Chelan Mountains of Washington. Inclement weather hampered the mountaineering program somewhat, but the follow-

* See, for example, pp. 248-55 and 341-3 above.