

U.S. Highway 28 near the upper end of the Ochoco Reservoir, at a point about ten miles E. of the town of Prineville, and then following a gravel road for seven miles up the Mill Creek Valley. A visitor arriving for the first time need have no concern about identification of the Pillar. When it suddenly bursts into view around a bend, he *knows* that he has found it. Having once spent the better part of a day with a party of four in gaining 30 vertical ft. on its walls, I believe it to be the most incredible single pinnacle I have yet seen, with the possible exception of one or two sandstone spires in the desert regions of the Southwest.

On 18 July 1950 the first ascent was accomplished by a party of five climbers from Oregon City: Donald Baars, Leonard Rice, Russell Johnson, and Floyd and Glenn Richardson. They made the climb in three sessions, extending over a period of two years—a fact which gives some indication of the amount of work required. Pitons are of little use except near the bottom, because the spire is virtually without cracks. Progress must depend on extensive use of expansion bolts. The 400-ft. walls overhang on all sides to such an extent that the crest, according to the climbers, has an area half again as large as the base. The Pillar leaves a distinct impression of being upside down.¹

FRED D. AYRES

Middle Peak of Liberty Bell. On the Memorial Day week end in 1950, Dick Widrig, Wesley Grande and I trudged through snow over most of the 16 miles of the Early Winter Creek Trail to Washington Pass, which is a few miles N. of Lake Chelan in the Cascade Mountains. Just S. of this pass are the three peaks that make up the main mass of Liberty Bell Mountain. The N. and S. peaks had been climbed; the middle peak, as yet untouched, was our objective.²

We approached the peak by the W. side and easily moved up to the base of the tower, where we considered possible routes up the remaining 400 ft. It was decided to work up the steep snow couloir that led to the col between the middle and S. peaks, even though it was cut about halfway up by a large rock cave or overhanging formation. This plan seemed at least possible, since the lip of the overhang was only about 40 ft. above the snow. Actually, this proved

¹ For a complete account of the climb, profusely illustrated, see the article by Donald Baars in the *Mazama Annual*, December 1950, pp. 27-33.

² G. Johnson, *Mountaineer*, XXXIX (1947), 49.

to be the bottleneck of the climb: only after practising an odd variety of climbing tricks were we able to force a passage up the partially ice-covered rock. I am sure that later in the year, when snow is not there to help, this route would be impracticable.

About 200 more ft. of the snow couloir brought us to the col, where we donned tennis shoes—necessary for the moderately difficult rock work ahead (200-300 ft.). Climbing was further complicated by a freezing wind and driving snow particles. On arriving at the summit, we hastily constructed a cairn. We then made a speedy descent to high camp, where several inches of snow fell that evening.

P. SCHOENING

S. Face of Forbidden Peak. Whoever ventures into the Cascade Pass area, in the state of Washington, can hardly help admiring the sharp ridges and sheer faces that lead up to the summit of Forbidden Peak (8900 ft.). These impressive features prompted a party of Seattle mountaineers to try an ascent, during the long Fourth of July week end in 1950. Previously, Forbidden Peak had been climbed three times—twice by the W. ridge used on the first ascent³ and once by the E. ridge. We planned to tackle the S. face.

Dick Widrig and I, the first of the party to approach the problem, established a high camp at timberline, directly below the peak, and then hiked up the glacier at the base of the 800-ft. face. Here we met the first obstacle: the lowest 200 ft. of the face appeared to have been so cut back by the action of the glacier as to be vertical and even, in some places, overhanging. We negotiated this bit by attacking the face on its left side, at the edge of a chimney; and then, after passing the overhang, we worked out more on the face. Progress was slow and often tedious, but by the end of the day we had done more than half of the wall—a good start for the next day. We then retraced our route, which Fred Beckey and Bill Fix established more securely with additional safety devices and fixed ropes.

Since Fred and Dick had to return to Seattle that evening, Bill and I were left to carry through the proposed climb. Next morning we moved rapidly up the fixed route and, without much difficulty, reached the high point of the previous day's efforts—at the base of a chimney that led almost to the summit ridge above. Since this whole face is composed of high-angle "down" slabs, with hardly any natural belay stations, the use of safety and anchor pitons was

³L. Anderson, *Mountaineer*, XXXII (1940), 35.