

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.

almost a necessity along the entire route. Many of the belays were of a hanging nature. After exchanging leads several times, we finally arrived at a point some 60 ft. below the summit ridge where our chimney petered out in a jumble of overhanging cracks. After grunting for a couple of hours and using five aid pitons and an equal number of partial aid and safety pitons, I managed to struggle up about 30 or 40 ft. of the blockade. Bill then took over the lead and moved to the ridge. The summit was now 130 easy yds. to the E.—a satisfying sight, we thought, considering that it had been reached only after two days of fifth- and sixth-class climbing that required the use of 34 pitons, five of them for direct aid.

P.S.

New Ascents in the Cashmere Crags. Of a number of new climbs on the Nightmare Needles in the Cashmere Crags, the first of the 1950 season was the ascent of Cynical Pinnacle by J. Hieb, W. Fix, J. Schwabland and F. Beckey. An open chimney on the N. face proved to be the key to the route.

On June 10th Fire Spire, an impressive shaft crowning a sharp arête, was scaled by A. Holben and Beckey. From a notch at its northern prow, reached over several hundred ft. of broken granite, the traverse of a vertical wall is made with pitons and a doubled rope. Height was gained later by a series of slanting cracks, suitable for angle pitons, two of which were needed for direct aid. From a *cheval* belay on a tilted slab the final 15-ft. summit needle was climbed with the aid of a lasso.

Little Snowpatch, a spire which derives its name from a peculiar snow patch on the E. face, was climbed on June 25th by Hieb, Schoening and Beckey. The route to the snow patch was by a series of bathtub holds on steep rock. Then, from a shoulder stand, a spare rope was flipped behind a scrubby tree growing in a 60-ft. crack. The leader was able to negotiate the crack above the tree with the aid of four giant angle pitons of a homemade variety. The last lead, from a tiny belay stance, was up a rounded S. arête with delicate but adequate holds. Later in the day, the first ascents of Windjammer Tower and Westwind Tower were accomplished.

TOP: LIBERTY BELL MOUNTAIN

Left to right: South Peak, Middle Peak, middle spines and North Peak

BOTTOM, LEFT: LITTLE SNOWPATCH

BOTTOM, RIGHT: THE FLAGPOLE