

First Ascent of Red Sentinel. The Red Sentinel, a very spectacular 200-ft. spire rising abruptly on the ridge which joins the W. wall of Disappointment Peak, was scaled for the first time in July 1950 by Mike Brewer, Dick Pownall, Bob Merriam and Leigh Ortenburger. The last attempt on this very sheer pinnacle had been made in August 1947 by Hans Kraus, Don Brown, Adolf Snow and Haldon Smith. This party had made 20 ft. of direct-aid climbing on the N. face and then stopped, within 30 ft. of the top, under a pitch that they reported as being not only vertical but smooth and devoid of piton cracks. The 1950 party ascended a steep 60-ft. jam crack on the S. face and then made a tricky friction traverse (60 ft.) on high-angle rock to the knifelike E. ridge. From there they completed the ascent by sensational rock climbing on the perpendicular N. wall. A vertical 60-ft. pitch, with minute hand- and footholds, led to the top of the E. ridge. Thence a 60-ft. scramble took the party to the summit—or rather to the highest point on the sharp summit ridge. Descent was by a 120-ft. rappel down the vertical and overhanging N.W. side. Pitons were used for protection only.

R. P.

UNITED STATES: ACTIVITIES OF THE CLUBS

A.A.C., Cascade Section. As usual, the Section enjoyed an active year. Several members attended the annual outings of the A.C.C. and the Mountaineers at Mt. Robson. Fred Ayres and Don Woods made a number of fine ascents in the Canadian Rockies and Cascades; Fred Beckey continued his exploration and climbing in the Cashmere Crags; Robert Craig had a successful season as manager of the Mt. Rainier Guide Service, which took 60 people to the summit;¹ Dr. Peter Misch and Dee Molenaar made several ascents in the Northern Cascades during a two-month period of geological reconnaissance and mapping under a grant from the Geological Society of America. Four members are now permanently employed on the ranger staff at Mt. Rainier National Park: Gordon Patterson, Elvin Johnson, and Cornelius and Dee Molenaar.

The Third Annual Pacific Northwest Mountaineering Conference was held at Paradise on 9 and 10 September 1950. In attendance were representatives of the National Park Service, Forest Service,

¹The number of independent climbers who reached the summit during the summer of 1950 was 170.

Coast Guard, Ski Patrol, Mountaineers, Mazamas, Washington Alpine Club and A.A.C. Interest was focused on search-and-rescue problems and on the newly-developed "sliding middleman" technique.

The Section's Annual Banquet was held on 4 November 1950, on the campus of the University of Washington. After dinner, the 35 members and guests saw colored slides of recent trips. John Hossack was elected chairman of the Section for the coming year.

D. MOLENAAR

A.A.C., Sierra Nevada Section. Since its organization in March 1947, the Sierra Nevada Section of the A.A.C. has held occasional meetings in the San Francisco Bay region. Recently, the increase of activity has created a need for regular quarterly meetings. Attendance at these meetings has averaged about 20 members—which shows excellent interest as eleven of our 46 members reside in southern California. The present officers are Einar Nilsson, chairman; Glen Dawson, vice-chairman; Oscar A. Cook, secretary-treasurer; David R. Brower; and Richard C. Houston.

In addition to concern for general club affairs this Section's members are strongly in favor of (1) the reactivation of the A.A.C. committee on military mountain and arctic training and equipment; (2) guarding against any further granting to the National Park Service and other Federal agencies of authority to prohibit climbing; (3) some program to disseminate information on safe climbing technique that would reach prospective young climbers having no regular club affiliation; (4) Will Siri's research program on the forces involved in belaying and their physiological effects on the human body; (5) Oscar A. Cook's proposal for some sort of late summer outing or meeting which would serve to bring together A.A.C. members from all parts of the country. It was felt that a week's stay in some good mountain area of the western United States or Canada would be suitable. Furthermore, the Sierra Nevada Section is willing to serve as host at the first such meeting, with the hope that other sections would follow its lead and offer to take charge in other years.

California climbers celebrated their state's centennial by accomplishing major ascents in their own state and British Columbia. Mt. Waddington was climbed by two new routes by an expedition