

during most of the summer. Making a beeline for the summit, we climbed by means of a series of connecting ledges between the slabs. This brought us to the southeast side of the summit block. Rather than make the easy traverse to the Exum ridge, we decided to attack one of the two southeast chimneys. The one on the right (north) was chosen, and soon we were on the summit at 1:00 A.M.

Why this route was completely ignored for 21 years is hard to say. It is readily accessible from the lower saddle and offers an excellent climb. Since the knife-edge is about even with the end of Wall Street on the Exum route, an outstanding combination would consist of climbing the Underhill ridge to the knife-edge and then traversing over to the Exum ridge and finishing the climb by that well-known route. It is interesting to note that the southeast, east, and north ridges—the three routes pioneered by Robert L. M. Underhill in 1929 and 1931—were all climbed that same day, 7 September 1952.

LEIGH ORTENBURGER

*Longs Peak, East Face.* On 5 July 1952, your correspondent, in company with his brother, Hassler Whitney, and Robert W. Craig, stumbled onto what proved to be a new route on the much studied East Face of Longs Peak. Approaching the foot of this impressive 1700-foot wall in the area between the Field Chimney ("Second Chimney") and the North Chimney, we noticed a deep crack running three quarters of the way up to that happy pastoral break in the face known as "Broadway." It was tempting to have at least a feel of it even though the mode of exit at the top was not obvious. The crack proved to vary from two to five feet in width between its smooth lateral walls. The floor was quite steep, but here and there loose rocks clung to it, while treacherous slabs occasionally almost blocked the passage. Twice, obstructing chockstones brought to my shoulders a familiarity with the soles of Craig's boots, but any dirt deposited there could not last long in the cold drip originating in a patch of snow still clinging to Broadway at this early season.

Eventually we were forced out onto the face to the left, where the climbing proved difficult and highly exposed. Characteristic of this face are the sparsity and stinginess of the holds, the downward sloping of the rock, and the tendency to flake. Though there were

but two good rope lengths to the safety of the snow patch above us, at least three hours were required to negotiate this delicate stretch. Eleven pitons were needed, and several of them we unblushingly used in direct aid. At least once the strain on my shivering fingers was relieved by the strong rope under my shoulders. Once Bob had us in the safety of Broadway, we were glad to take the shortest and easiest route back to the Chasm Lake Shelter Cabin—the second time that Hassler and I had been forced to forego at the halfway mark the pleasures of the summit.

Under dry conditions later in the season this climb would be far less unpleasant and would require less use of pitons, but it is not likely to be recommended by any of the present party. For the ambitious expert the nearby Stettner Ledges are much to be preferred.

R. S. WHITNEY

*Black Hills, South Dakota.* There are few more readily accessible rock climbing regions than the fantastic spires in the Black Hills. Probably only a half-mile from the Needles Highway are the jagged Cathedral Spires, many of whose summits have been climbed by Herb and Jan Conn. Our party, John Dudra, Herb Staley, Wes Grande, and I, had just completed the ascent of Wiessner's Chimney on the Devil's Tower. After such an arduous climb we felt ready to attempt several of the apparently more hostile spires. We found two isolated formations on a tree-covered ridge and spent a gruelling day in reaching their summits, two towers which we called "Diana" and "Andrew." A long open chimney made the ascent possible in one case, but we had to rely on artificial aids and bolts to succeed on the other. A unique method of roping and lassoing enabled us to put a man atop Laureate Tower, in three stages of rope-throwing and pulley technique.

Grande and Staley attempted a route on another spire that proved too lengthy in the remaining two days, but fortunately Dudra and I had a streak of luck. With Herb Conn we had climbed Kháyyám Spire, where we found the only evidence of a previous visit, apparently made by the Wiessner party in 1937. Dudra and I had our hearts set on scaling the 400-foot rock shaft just to its south, one we fittingly dubbed Rubáiyát Spire. The first lead, into a deep chimney some 120 feet above the grass, took all morning and half