

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 Duda, 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 Duda and I had a streak of luck. With Herb Conn we had climbed Kháyáyám Spire, where we found the only evidence of a previous visit, apparently made by the Wiessner party in 1937. Duda 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

the afternoon. Most of the time was spent standing in slings, placing pitons for aid. Two bolts were needed to bypass an overhang, and when a flawless stretch prevented further progress, we luckily managed to snag a rope lasso on a rock horn and prusik-knot our way to this point at the entrance of the chimney. The latter proved feasible enough, and only on the last 50 feet was it again necessary to use a piton, and this only for safety. It had been a thrilling climb and was to prove a slippery descent and rappel, for a sudden rain-storm broke just as we started down.

FRED BECKEY

UNITED STATES: ACTIVITIES OF THE CLUBS

A.A.C.: Cascade Section. Although the Section met only three times during the year, its individual members were busy taking part in mountaineering projects of their own such as an expedition to the Yukon Territory, dedication of mountain huts in the State of Washington, and participation in mountain rescue and safety work. Early in May the Section met to hear in advance the plans for a proposed King Peak-Yukon expedition scheduled to leave immediately for the Yukon Territory. Pete Schoening, assisted by four other men taking part in the venture, described all plans in detail for the contemplated ascent of the 18,000-foot King Peak. Routes, equipment, food, supply arrangements, and chief objectives were included in this description.

Then in November a follow-up meeting was held when Schoening and Victor Josendal had returned to recount the actual success story of the expedition which resulted in the ascent of King Peak and Mt. Augusta. Movies and colored slides taken on the expedition furnished a thrilling visual account of the spectacular mountains encountered.

Early in September the Section acted as host to Prof. Hans Kinzl, trustee of the Austrian Alpine Club from Innesbruck, Austria, who was in the Pacific Northwest studying glaciers. Dr. Kinzl spoke briefly of the activities of the Austrian Alpine Club, describing their extensive system of alpine huts, and touched on his part in the 1932 and 1936 Austrian expeditions to the Andes.

During the summer climbing season A.A.C. members, includ-