

dolmen of volcanic rock. Climbing this face was out of the question; rock was constantly falling from it. A herd of mountain sheep enticed us to the ridge between Pilot and Index Peaks. We assumed that if we could flush them higher up, they would show us an easy way up, but as we followed them around the western ledges on what was not quite rock and not quite earth, we wished for crampons. We were forced many times to deviate from their route to suit our feeble attempts at climbing. The western ridge brought us to the final summit pyramid. The summit looked about three extremely difficult leads away. We followed a large scree-covered ledge along the southern base of the pyramid until we could go no farther. Rockfall danger indicated that a party of three would be most unwise, so Jean volunteered to wait on the broad sunny ledge. Bill led the first two pitches and amid crumbling hand- and footholds drove three pitons for psychological reasons. Horribly exposed and absolutely vertical, the second lead, at the most, boasted of three finger pinch holds. For 20 feet there was nothing of any comfort. This lead was a true mountaineering nightmare, and Bill's ascent of it testifies to his climbing ability. The next lead, an overhang, I led only with the idea born of despair to get the mountain climbed and get home. From the top of the overhang we climbed up a shallow gully, bearing right occasionally until the summit rocks were in sight. On the top we found only a shipwrecked cairn, but no record of Smith's ascent. The eastern side of the mountain has, I understand, an easier and less dangerous route to the top. The crowning blow came a few days after the climb when a letter from Smith informed us that on the first ascent a ram's skull was found on the summit.

JOHN FONDA

*Olympic Mountains, Washington.* I spent a month in the Olympic Mountains of Washington this summer, fortunately during the driest August on record, and enjoyed a whole month of sunshine. While surveying we ascended several of the peaks surrounding the Mt. Olympus massif. We were surprised to find that some of these bore no record of ascent, although they are within easy reach of campsites used for the ascent of Mt. Olympus, annually climbed by scores of climbers. Names of Greek gods and goddesses seem appropriate for these 6,000- to 7,000-foot peaks. None of them is technically difficult, but their alpine setting around the glaciers of Mt. Olympus makes them delightful ascents. The most striking of these minor peaks is "Mt. Hermes," a sharp rock summit located east of the Hoh Glacier.

EDWARD LACHAPPELLE

*New Ascents in the Cascade Range.* Early in the summer of 1955 two new climbs were undertaken in the Washington Pass area of the Methew