

for direct aid. Once above this touchy spot, I went left across a slab and into the "great chimney," where Fred joined me on a chockstone platform. Fred led up vertically through the steep and rotten chimney, with one piton for safety. Above this we were confronted by an extremely steep, seemingly impossible corner between two large, smooth walls. To our great surprise, Fred found an almost-hidden chimney between the two incoming walls. With pitons for safety, I wormed my way upward. We were soon directly below the summit and some scrambling on moderately difficult rock brought us to the top. This completed the fourth route to the summit, one on each side of the mountain.

DONALD CLAUNCH

North Face of Liberty Bell, Cascades. Towards the end of August, 1956, Hans Kraus and John Rupley packed up Early Winters Creek in the eastern Cascades, above Lake Chelan, to attempt a route on the north face of Liberty Bell. A brief reconnaissance confirmed reports of interesting rock routes. Our camp, immediately below the face, was ideally situated for enjoying the unique beauty of the area and for studying the climb. At day-break we stepped virtually from our camp onto the face. After about 400 feet of easy rock above a small snow patch below the center of the face, we entered a couloir leading another 400 feet diagonally up and to the right. The first roped pitch was a short, slightly difficult climb out of the couloir over poor rock. After a 150-foot traverse back towards the center of the face, two fifth-class pitches led to the top of an inside corner. Another lead, up and to the right, brought us to a flake, requiring about 20 feet of direct-aid climbing before a second inside corner could be reached. The succeeding 150-foot pitch up this corner was deceptively difficult, requiring about eight stirrups. An easy ledge brought us to the minor summit, from which we traversed to the top. About 700 feet of roped climbing are required by this route, with the north face totaling over 1000 feet. Liberty Bell offers numerous sixth-class routes, the north, east, and west faces all allowing probable direct-aid climbs of varying difficulty; the peak is perhaps more attractive in that the normal route, from a high south notch, is fifth-class.

JOHN RUPLEY

The West Black Butte, Cascades. During the past summer the first ascent of the West Black Butte, Mount Lincoln, was accomplished by a group comprised of Fred Beckey, Wes Grande, John Rupley, and Herb Staley. The Black Buttes are crumbling volcanic arêtes that flank the western slope of Mount Baker, visible from Seattle on a clear day and familiar landmarks to climbers and skiers in that area.

We left Kulshan Cabin campsite at 4:30 A.M., July 22, after a fitful night marked by the pre-dawn exuberance of a large group assaulting Mount Baker. We climbed the lower moraine, crossed the snowfields bordering Coleman Glacier, and reached the crumbling spine of Heliotrope Ridge at 6 A.M. A reconnaissance made in 1946 failed us there; the impressive north flank of the Butte was effectively separated from us by the 1500-foot-deep gulf of the spectacular Thunder Glacier. Much valuable time was lost at that point while we alternately scouted the broken cliffs for a way down and discussed the greater wisdom of basking amid lupine and fireweed for the day. A dubious route was finally found, involving an interesting glistade over decayed slabs, gravel, and muddy snowfields below the glacier. After brunch and a brief sun bath we embarked upon a steep two-mile traverse along debris-strewn snowfields beneath the west face of the Butte. We were rewarded upon reaching the south slope by attractive heather meadows aflame with flowers and tiny residual glaciers. There was a magnificent panorama of the red peaks of the Twin Sisters range to the southwest.

After a brief reconnaissance we were in unanimous agreement that the south face presented the only logical approach to the upper mountain. As seen from below, the West Butte presented a vast forest of lava rock in various stages of decay. Above the steep glacier at its base was a maze of dark gullies veined with snow and capped by four towers of seemingly uniform height. Because of the difficulty anticipated and the impending race against time, we decided to rely on Beckey's 1946 reconnaissance and proceed up the largest gully toward the crown-shaped tower second from the left. After ascending the glacier, we were on rock. A rounded step 100 feet high and exposed to the depth of the moat below required a few cautious moments, after which we traversed upward to the left for some distance over rotten slabs and short littered steps onto the softening snow of a parallel gully. The hollow echo of falling rock above revealed the presence of an anti-social billy goat within 300 feet of our summit choice.

Summoning pride, and because of the lateness of hour, which precluded anything as technical as expected, we decided to abandon most of our drills, bolts, slings, and assorted hardware and to rely on good fortune plus the common sense of the aforementioned goat. We ascended the gully as rapidly as possible for more than 1000 feet on loose snow and rock approaching 55 degrees in angle. The gully was guarded effectively by loosely assembled walls on either side. At 1 P.M. we reached a narrow skyline col above the north face. We turned to the left, 150 feet below our chosen summit tower. Clouds had gathered in the depths below and had

begun to well upward upon a cold wind. Through veiled windows in the clouds we could look briefly to the spot on Heliotrope Ridge where we had been that morning, and beyond to Coleman Glacier with the ant figures of climbers descending. The next 150 feet, requiring great caution, was climbed singly over loose blocks, a 40-foot rotten stemming chimney, and an exposed narrow crack of reasonably solid rock. The top of the tower proved interesting in that it revealed the presence of the true summit 80 feet higher and separated by a troublesome 40-foot gap which required a rappel plus a fixed rope on the return. The summit tower was exposed, but apart from uncertain rock, not as difficult as anticipated. At approximately 3 P.M., well chilled and cheated of a view, we emptied a sardine can as a register and affixed a jaunty red ribbon to our cairn.

The descent was a race against oncoming dark, spiced by rockfall and handicapped by the great caution required on the steep unprotected snow. A final rappel onto the glacier was followed by an interesting glissade and the long, unhappy slog back over Heliotrope Ridge to Kulshan Cabin. The round trip required more than 15 hours. Had greater difficulty been encountered, the climb would not have succeeded. The elevation of the West Butte is 8500 feet, although on at least one map it reads more than 9000. Basically, the climb is a problem in route-finding, but the attendant hazards more than compensate for any lack of technical difficulty. None of us would care to repeat the climb or to recommend it.

HERB STALEY

Wyoming

Northeast Face of Disappointment Peak, Tetons. In mid-July, Willi Unsoeld and Richard Pownall made a new route of severe difficulty on this remarkably smooth face. After a few rope-lengths up the east ride of Disappointment Peak from the notch above Amphitheater Lake, they traversed out on the very broad ledge which cuts across half of the face about half-way up from the bottom of the face. From near the end of this ledge, three hours of direct-aid climbing were required to pass the first pitch. The difficulty of the remainder of the 500 feet of climbing did not perceptibly decrease. Although not entirely direct aid, the climbing remained constantly severe until the crest of the east ridge a short distance from the summit was reached some ten hours later.

LEIGH ORTENBURGER

South Face of Symmetry Spire, Tetons. The Teton Range, in general, and Symmetry Spire, in particular, have been so thoroughly climbed in