

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, Teton.* 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, Teton.* The Teton Range, in general, and Symmetry Spire, in particular, have been so thoroughly climbed in

recent years that one might think that nothing important remains to be done; prior to 1956, there were nine different routes and four variations on Symmetry Spire alone. Yet in early August, Richard Pownall, Willi Unsoeld, and Norman Lee succeeded in climbing the entire direct South Face, a new route. The importance of this new climb is that it touches neither the Southwest Ridge nor the Durrance Ridge, the boundaries of the face. The older "direct" route, established in 1950 by Pownall and Ortenburger, joined the Durrance Ridge after ascending about two-thirds of the face. The new route started well to the west of the 1950 route, the difficulty having been only moderate until a four-foot ceiling overhang was reached. In the interest of directness, this was attacked over the center through the use of direct aid and stirrups. Above this obstacle, the principal problem was to avoid being forced out to the Durrance Ridge after crossing the ledge connecting this ridge with the Southwest Ridge. The crux of the climb came in the last pitch, the prominent overhang to the left (west) of the last pitch of the Durrance Ridge. Pownall required two hours to make the demanding lead up over this overhang.

LEIGH ORTENBURGER

*Devils Tower.* Climbing every day during "Mountaineer's Week" in July of 1956, rock climbers from 13 states, France, and Switzerland made 81 ascents of the Devils Tower in northeastern Wyoming. The climbers were invited by the Wyoming Mountaineers of Casper College, to this 50th anniversary commemoration of the establishment by President Roosevelt, in 1906, of the first national monument, the Devils Tower. The massed assaults on the Tower clearly demonstrated to more than 15,000 visitors that climbing is a safe sport for those who are trained for it.

Although six new routes were *driven* up the Devils Tower this summer, bringing the total to ten, the Durrance and the Wiessner routes remain the only ones which have been climbed without the use of tension and the direct aid of acrobatic rope-engineering. Under the impetus of this climbing celebration, more mountaineering ascents of the Tower were made during 1956 than in all the previous years, and more ascents in one week than in the first 25 years of climbing there.

American Alpine Club members, who led or organized eight of the ten teams, climbed on seven of the eight days of the event, and included: Mary Sylvander, Henry A. Waldrop, Robert W. Swartz, Walt Bailey, Henry C. Hoyt, Wilber F. Arnold, Harold F. Walton. Climbing teams also represented these groups and clubs: U.S. Army Mountain and Cold Weather Training Command, Wyoming Mountaineers, Appalachian