

say that the descent of Mowich Face must be considered as great an accomplishment as the ascent.

*Wilson Glacier Headwall.* Few unclimbed and untried routes remain on the popular Paradise side of Mount Rainier. Wilson Glacier heads in a steep-walled cirque at about 10,000 feet and then flows into Nisqually Glacier below 8500 feet. Above the head of Wilson Glacier a series of steep couloirs climbs upward to join in a rather broad icefield pocketed beneath the 13,000-foot top of Wapowety Cleaver. Only 15 years ago this now quite inactive, ablated ice slope was a hanging lobe of thick ice fed by Kautz Glacier to the west. It terminated in an ice cliff which overhung the lower couloirs. Only the frequent slides of loose rock and fresh snow and occasional fragments of ice from the eastern end of the Kautz Ice Cliff down the couloirs attest to the former glories of immense ice avalanches. (See *AAJ* 1957, photo: "Routes of Ascents on South Side of Mount Rainier." The new route ascends about halfway between the Kautz and the Fuhrer Finger routes.) This route was first climbed July 20-21 by Pete Schoening and Dee Molenaar under ideal conditions, with a recent snowfall well consolidated to the ice and over the loose rock. We left Paradise Valley at 2:45 P.M., crossed Nisqually Glacier and ascended along the western edge of Wilson Glacier rapidly. After detouring around the right end of the bergschrund at the head of the glacier, we worked back and up into the central couloir, keeping close to the rock cliff at one side to avoid possible rock and ice debris. A 15-foot cliff across an avalanche-scarred constriction required delicate climbing on rock with crampons, made quickly with frequent wary glances upward. Once above this exposed gully, we climbed higher and into the protection of an overhanging rock wall. Here at 11,000 feet a narrow platform was leveled and a bivouac made at 8 P.M. After a restless but beautiful night we continued upward at 2:30 A.M. A steep diagonal traverse of the frozen snow-covered surface of the upper ice slope, followed by intermittent ice and rock climbing brought us to the top of Wapowety Cleaver by sunrise. The crater rim was reached at 6:15 A.M. After a brief pause we descended by the Gibraltar route, reaching Paradise Valley at 10 A.M.

*Curtis Ridge.* Without doubt the most frequently attempted and eagerly sought route on Mount Rainier over the past 25 years has been Curtis Ridge on the northeast side. Separating Winthrop Glacier from Willis Wall and Carbon Glacier, this steep and crumbling ridge has thwarted over a dozen serious efforts to go higher than 11,000 feet, merely by virtue of an almost continual barrage of rock which falls during all

periods of the climbing season. It was not until July 20-21 that two men from the Yakima Cascadians, Marcel Schuster and Gene Prater, found the favorable conditions under which to complete the ascent. Recent new snow had become well consolidated and offered a solid footing and a binding material to hold the rocks in place. (See *AAJ* 1957, photos showing the Curtis Ridge route. Continue the route-line to the summit dome above Willis Wall.) They followed the usual approach to lower Curtis Ridge via White River Campground, Glacier Basin, St. Elmo's Pass, and a traverse of the lower Winthrop Glacier. Camp was pitched near a small tarn at 8000 feet on lower Curtis Ridge. A reconnaissance that afternoon by Prater and Bob McCall, of the support party, showed frozen new snow covering the scree slopes above. The clean condition of the snow indicated that very little rock was falling. At 4:30 A.M. next morning Schuster and Prater left camp. A long rappel off the north face of the big gendarme at 10,300 feet was followed by a traverse upward along its north flank, which brought them to the knife-edged ridge. This sharp crest offered no problems from 10,000 to 11,000 feet, except for another gendarme and two more drop-offs. The crux of the whole climb was a rock cliff which intersected the ridge at 11,000 feet and had to be overcome with a shoulder stand, pitons, and stirrups. Above, progress was rapid and the next major cliff was by-passed to the right. An open snow slope and then a series of snow-filled gullies brought the climbers at 1:30 P.M. to 12,500 feet and the summit snow cap of Russell Cliff. Curtis Ridge was finally conquered. The ascent to the crater rim and summit was completed at 5 P.M. and two hours later Schuster and Prater rejoined their support party below St. Elmo's Pass after a descent via Emmons Glacier.

*Kautz Cleaver.* Point Success, the southwesterly of Rainier's three summits, and the only point above 14,000 feet which may be reached without touching glacier ice, was first reached by Stevens and Van Trump during their historic ascent of Rainier in 1870. Today Point Success is seldom visited, since until recently only one summit route ever traversed directly over this high point (Glascock and Dudley's Success Cleaver route of 1905). Two other rock ridges converge near Point Success: Tahoma Cleaver on the west, the last unclimbed ridge on the mountain, and Kautz Cleaver on the south. The latter rises steeply from the confluence of Success and Kautz glaciers, at 9000 feet, to converge with Success Cleaver at 13,000 feet. (See *AAJ* 1957, photo: "Routes of Ascents on Southwest Side of Mount Rainier." The route is on the right side of the picture.) The first two attempts were not made until 1957. The first