

Above this, the climbing was artificial for 20 feet. Several pitons mark the route. The remaining distance to the ledge was Grade IV. There, 300 feet below the summit, the first lead (+V) was quite obvious. Above this we had the choice of several lines and chose one to the right. Free climbing (+V) brought us to a pitch that was running with water. This was surmounted with aid and in 60 feet more the summit was reached. A long hike brought us to the highest point. We got back to camp at midnight after 20 hours on the go. We used about 20 to 25 pitons. For climbs on Squaretop—and there are plenty of them left—we advise a camp under the peak, as it is a very long distance for a one-day climb.

EDWARD COOPER

Northeast Face, Squaretop. Layton Kor and I started our climb up a steepening slab system on the northwest face, between two converging couloirs. This section had about six leads, two of which had some quite difficult free moves protected by pitons. No aid was used. The rock was excellent. From this converging point, which was actually a short arête leading into a central couloir between great vertical walls, we followed the couloir and its right side for about four leads, then struck directly upward on a steep wall that was well broken with cracks and flakes. A number of pitons were used in this wall for protection, and again there were various strenuous technical problems. Once on the summit rim, it was a few minutes' walk to the curious top. Both our party and Cooper's reached the summit shortly before evening and made the descent to the valley by the southern slopes. The long walk to camp was featured by moose and moonlight. Although the approaches are tedious for this region, we feel that Squaretop has great climbing possibilities. These two routes are the only continuously difficult and long high-angle problems accomplished in the northern Wind River Range, to my knowledge, and give proof to the surmise that classic alpine rock climbs of difficulty exist there.

FRED BECKEY

New Ascents in Central Wind River Range. In July, Bill Dougall, Mark Haun, Monte Haun, Bob Bell, Jon Hisey and I spent eight days in the Island Lake—Titcomb Lakes area and completed eleven ascents between electrical storms. Of major interest to future parties is the camp established about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles north of the upper Titcomb Lake and directly below the west face of Mount Helen. A tremendous boulder sits there on a meadow bench with a 12 x 15-foot overhang on its north side, which we partially walled in and found more than suitable for sheltering six.

From Island Lake we climbed Knife Point Mountain (13,007 feet) and then continued another half mile east along the ridge to a 12,800-foot peak overlooking Alpine Lakes. No record of prior ascents was found on the latter, which we called Nebraska Point. A second day from Island Lake took us on a traverse around the south side of Cairn Peak to the Cairn Peak-Ellingwood saddle. From here a quarter-mile traverse east and a 700-foot scramble brought us to a large smooth saddle on Ellingwood's south ridge from where we climbed to the main peak (13,000 feet) apparently by a new route. Immediately south of the saddle is a 300-foot tower (12,500 feet) with two very interesting and exposed class 4 leads. We made its first ascent via a rib just left of the central chute and named it Faler Tower. It can be seen from the Island Lake campsite poking ominously above Cairn Peak's south ridge. Our return to camp was via an ascent of Cairn Peak's east ridge. Also climbed from Island Lake were Fremont (13,730 feet) and Jackson (13,400 feet).

One day was spent moving gear six miles to the Mount Helen Boulder camp. Gannett Peak (13,785 feet) was climbed via Bonney Pass and two new routes were made in ascending Mount Helen (13,600 feet). Two long and steep snow fingers angle up and left to crease Helen's northwest face and the party was split to get them both. The longer west gully gave us a beautiful standing glissade on the descent with a 2000-foot drop. Also climbed were Miriam Peak (13,110 feet) and a second ascent of the south face couloir on Woodrow Wilson (13,500 feet).

KENN CARPENTER

Ross Lake Cirques Area. Brian Underhill and I spent two weeks in early August in this area, which offers the northernmost climbing in the Wind River Range, being several miles north of even Downs Peak. As inaccessible as any part of the range, the backpack took us four days to get past Lower and Upper Ross Lake and included among other things the construction of a raft. A barren, decaying tableland, about 12,200 feet high, surmounts this network of cirques. A relatively easy route was found to the tableland, leading directly up the wall above our camp at Mile Long Lake (grade 3). Once on this shelf, one is prevented only by a mushy horizontal glacier from roaming all over the Downs Peak massif and the two flats, Ram Flat and Goat Flat. Downs Peak (13,344 feet) was climbed by way of Bonney's Peaks 31 and 12. (See O. H. and L. Bonney, *Guide to the Wyoming Mountains and Wilderness Areas*, Denver, 1960.) We climbed many lesser unclimbed peaks in this vicinity including an easy scramble up Bonney's Peak 26, a traverse along the ridge to Peak 30 and