

rock ridge merged with the summit ice cap it would have been impossible to stop a slip.

EDWARD COOPER

*Mount Shuksan, Direct West Face.* On Saturday, August 26, Don Keller, Mike Forney, Erich Zahn and I found ourselves at Lake Ann surrounded by a large party getting ready for the summit climb the next day. We had come with the idea of climbing from the Lower Curtis Glacier up the center of a prominent rock face and then over the Upper Curtis Glacier rejoining the regular route at "Hell's Highway." From the lake the route is dominated by the ice cliffs of the Upper Curtis Glacier, and this had apparently diverted previous parties from this beautiful ascent. During a reconnaissance on Saturday afternoon we went up onto the face, and found to our delight that not only did the upper icefall appear solid, but that the rock face itself would give us good protection. Satisfied, we returned to camp for an early start the next day. As we left camp at 3:15 A.M. a full moon was breaking through a thin layer of low clouds. By the time we reached the flat Lower Curtis Glacier the sky was clear, and the moon outlining the pinnacles and flooding the cirque gave the scene a wonderful quality of serenity and grandeur. We moved up over the lower rocks, through the darker shadows to the lower edge of the rock face directly under the center of the upper ice cliff. After we roped, the first pitch went up a leftward-slanting ledge to a short vertical wall and then to a good belay spot. From here the rock went easily, as we moved directly upward, the first light of dawn giving better visibility. At all times we found the rock extremely solid and with a favorable lie to its strata. About 100 feet below the foot of the upper ice cliff we had a second breakfast on a prominent ledge which gave us good protection. From here we continued to the right through a stream and up the rock to the ice cliff. We climbed along its base until we reached a corner just above a prominent pinnacle. Donning crampons, we had several enjoyable pitches over the first section of the cliff. This was followed by an area of easy shattered ice, allowing us to proceed rapidly to the final wall. The key was found, and the party emerged onto the flat, brilliantly sunlit Upper Curtis Glacier. We continued to the summit on the regular route. This climb probably has varying conditions, depending on the season and the stability of the upper ice cliff.

TONY HOVEY

*Gothic Peak, West Face.* The Sultan Basin road goes by the base of the west face of Gothic Peak, long an objective of mine. On July 9, Gary

Rose and I started up through the wet brush so characteristic of early morning climbs in this area. Soon a stream bed led us rapidly upward to the prominent but easy slabs directly below Castle Rocks. From here we angled to the right, then over a snow shelf to a steepening rock gully. Climbing to the right we continued over alternating patches of rock and steep heather to the summit. The climb is easy but somewhat long. We descended by a rib parallel to Gothic, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south, which took almost as long as the climb.

TONY HOVEY

*Vega Peak.* This peak lies directly north of Morning Star Peak, and is prominently seen from Barlow Pass. Paul Williams, Klindt Vielbig and I had come to attempt it on the morning of September 4. Taking the Sunrise Mine trail from the Mountain Loop Highway we went up to the cabin and then faced the dismal prospect of clambering over and through the soaking-wet brush that now dominates the section of the trail going to the basin under Sperry Peak. Here we had a fine view of our peak and plugged on up to the base of a gully leading to the ridge just below the final summit. The gully went well, with a chockstone and moist walls giving a little excitement. From the notch we scrambled up to the top.

TONY HOVEY

*Mount Fernow, North Face.* Bill and Gene Prater, Fred Dunham, and Jim Wickwire climbed the ice finger on the north face of Mount Fernow on September 16 and 17. The approach was by way of Big Creek, upstream on Railroad Creek from the ghost town, Holden. A truck bridge provides a crossing of Railroad Creek, and a miners' trail was followed up the side of Dumbbell Mountain for about 1000 feet before traversing into Big Creek, which has extensive alder and no trail. Game trails were followed on the Copper Mountain side of Big Creek to where the stream draining the ice finger and the cirque between Copper and Fernow comes in from the east. Camp was located at about 5500 feet in creek debris, since no meadows are present and slide alder predominates. The creek was followed to timberline, though a rock slide to the north of the creek was used on the descent. At this late date the ice was firm and free of snow, so crampons were necessary throughout. The angle of the upper 1000 feet varied from  $30^\circ$  to  $45^\circ$ , but being water ice, pitons were necessary in a number of places for safety and belay points. A crevassed section 500 feet above the last rock island provided better belay positions, and near here a traverse to the right brought the party to a prominent buttress on the rock wall of the mountain. This proved to be well fractured, and was followed the last