

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

500 feet to the summit ridge. This class 3 buttress offered no problems other than loose rock. The ridge led east to the summit in five rope lengths. Descent was via the rock bordering the ice finger to the west, the only problem being the descending traverse across 40° ice to the highest rock island. Below this the gradient eases. Game trails were followed the entire distance out the Copper Mountain (east) side of Big Creek. An earlier climb would present easier snow slopes on the ice finger.

GENE PRATER, *Sherpa Climbing Club*

*The Talon.* This 4000-foot spire is located across the canyon from the White Pass Highway about five miles east of the pass. The first ascent was made on September 24 by Dave Mahre, Fred Dunham, and Jim Wickwire. Using the Clear Lake approach, the car was left below the 1500-foot-high talus slope on the south side of the canyon. The first lead was on the south side of the spire, over loose rock to a belay point on the southeast corner. This was followed by a lead up the corner to a horizontal crack on the east side, then up a steep, open chimney to a tree, the next belay point. The next lead went across and up the east side to the exposed north ridge about thirty feet from the summit. Completing the ascent, the party climbed back down to the tree, where a 240-foot rappel took them to the scree slopes. Piton cracks are scarce, though two were used on the initial lead. The climb is predominantly class five.

*Yellow Lichen Towers.* These 6800-foot towers, located 1/2 mile west of the main peak of Ingalls Peak, were first climbed on October 1 by Fred Dunham, Jim Wickwire, and Gene Prater. They can be reached by descending from the 7000-foot Main-South-Peak saddle of Ingalls Peak, or by taking the Teanaway-Fortune Creek trail, descending north 300 feet to Lake Ann, and continuing north through easy meadow country to the towers. The east tower was climbed on the west side from the notch between it and the middle tower—class 3. The middle tower was climbed from the east, using one piton and a rappel bolt on the summit—class 4. The west tower was climbed on the southwest side by traversing across the lower face to a large chockstone in a wide crack. Another crack was followed to the east, where still another crack continues up to the ridge above. Holds are good and the chockstone offers an excellent belay, but the rock tends to fracture out on these short climbs.

GENE PRATER, *Sherpa Climbing Club*

*East Peak of Ingalls Peak, Direct South Face.* On September 10 Hal Lee and David Hiser completed the first direct ascent of this face with an enjoyable class 4-5 climb over extremely variable rock.