

the upper portion of a steep rocky buttress called Victory Ridge. The climb would have to be done early in the summer in order to find sufficient snow and ice on the rock's gullies and ledges to provide safe climbing, yet not too early, for then there would be an avalanche hazard. Victory Ridge from beneath foiled our earlier effort, since it breaks into a hopeless series of gendarmes. That time we were forced to pass close to the north side of this ridge, then climb the steep gully systems with a careful eye above for ice fragments and pellets which were continually coming down. We did not fear the ice cliffs as long as we kept away from rubble areas above.

A clear and cool night forecasted our best chance. We left camp about 2 A.M. and by daylight were already traversing beneath the Lyman Glaciers. In a few more hours we were roped and climbing up a segment of the South Wilson Glacier that led to a great headwall capped by the upper ice cliffs. Here the sun had already loosened particles of snow, and by the time we crossed a great bergschrund individual stones were hissing down the many channels grooved into the steep snow-and-ice face leading to upper Victory Ridge. After crossing the schrund, we climbed two leads on steep ice which demanded some cutting. Then we followed a snow arête on the ridge and began a two-hour traversing climb to the right, much of the time dodging small but rapid rockfall and loose ice fragments. In time we climbed into the center of three prominent ice couloirs that sweep up the cliff. On each lead we now had to cut steps and continually watch for falling fragments. We mitigated danger by belaying from safe ledges off to the sides and by climbing rapidly from safe stances to other safe stances. Eventually we cut and cramponed our way to a safe position directly under the ice cliff; but here it overhung in all directions, with huge icicles barring progress. We then cut steps to the south for three long leads, using both rock and ice pitons on this traverse and keeping immediately beneath the final cliff. On one 50-foot stretch, it was necessary to stay behind the curtain of icicles, a weird but actually technically safe traverse. Finally we cut across a section of black ice and found only 200 feet of sloping ice ahead of us. Once up this, not even a single crevasse separated us from the summit, only a few hundred yards directly ahead.

FRED BECKEY

*Mount Adams, Mazama Glacier Icefall.* Just south of Battlement Ridge on the east face of this 12,207-foot peak, the Summit Glacier breaks off into two distinct icefalls. The icefall nearest to the ridge is that of the Klickitat Glacier. Farther south and separated from the Klickitat by prominent cliffs is the Mazama Glacier icefall; this was first climbed July 8

by Dave Mahre, Dr. Ralph Uber and me. From a broad, steep headwall it drops through a narrowing cliff structure resembling an hour glass, from which is spreads out into the gentle form of the Mazama. The route presented two basic problems. First was the icefall itself which, compressed by the steep sidewalls and by pressure from above, is torn and twisted into a maze of séracs and crevasses that presents to the eye a 1500-foot vertical pattern of chaos. The climbing here involved some airy bridges, some delicate maneuvers on unstable séracs, and lots of ice chopping. Hard hats protected us several times as icicles dropped from overhanging crevasse lips. Above the icefall is a badly crevassed transition, gentle in comparison, where the glacier gathers for its plunge. This is but a pause before the second problem, the headwall. We could have traversed left or right to turn the headwall but rather chose to tackle it head-on, an exhilarating effort on the front prongs of our 12-point crampons. There were some delicate snow bridges and the last 500 feet averaged 60°. It was with regret that I finished this good climb as we strolled from the plateau of the false top over to the summit. It had been 30 years ago almost to the day since I first had climbed Mount Adams.

LEX MAXWELL

*Mount Rainier, Russell Cliffs.* The previously unreported first ascent of these cliffs was completed in July, 1960, by Dave Mahre, Jim Kurtz, Don Jones, and Gene Prater. From a camp at Steamboat Prow, we crossed the Winthrop Glacier as soon as the snow was firm in the evening. The "Winthrop Trough", a rapidly moving section of the glacier, forced the ascent to almost 11,000 feet before the traverse to the snow slopes of the lower cliff could be completed. We traversed to the north, and climbed a 600-foot snow gully ending just below the lowest extension of the snowfields above 12,500 feet. From here the slog to the summit was straightforward, the entire ascent taking about 10 hours. Rockfall danger makes it advisable to gain the upper snowfields before dawn.

GENE PRATER, *Cascadians*

*Colchuck Peak, Northeast Ridge and North Face.* On July 15, Ray Lilleby and I approached the peak from Colchuck Lake, ascending toward the Dragontail-Colchuck col to a point just below the Colchuck Glacier. Talus slopes lead to a narrow, snow-filled 45° couloir, and entry was gained via a short, severe pitch. We followed the couloir to the upper northeast ridge, and ascended the north face on class 3-4 rock to the summit.

JIM WICKWIRE, *Cascadians*