

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*