

*Dragon-tail Peak, Stuart Range.* Two new routes were made on Dragon-tail Peak, the highest mountain of the Stuart Range in the area of Colchuck Lake, early this summer by Dan Davis and me. We climbed the *north* face, with its "Piz Badile"-like slabs, by a long crack system, mostly fourth class, but with a few safety pitons; we climbed it to its logical conclusion, that is to say to the north summit, which may never have been reached before. We ascended the highly impressive *west* face, an estimated 1700 feet high, in a direct line from the glacier to the true summit. The route led past two snow patches set in granitic bowls and continued up two fifth-class pitches which offered only friction holds with poor protection. Once a dangerous shower of rock fragments hurtled down between leader and belayer, falling from a third snow patch higher on the face. Eventually these dangers decreased and a deliberate effort was made to keep the route on the central rib. Although the angle remained steep, the rock was well fractured with good holds, and it was possible to complete the remainder of the long ascent fourth class. The climb compares in length and difficulty with the northern faces of Mount Stuart and, except for loose scree piles under the snow patches, has excellent rock.

FRED BECKEY

*The Monument, Cashmere Crags.* A new route on this accurately named monolith was made by Dan Davis and me via a solitary crack system on the east flank. About ten pitons were used for aid, and the final block was scaled as on the original ascent—with a rope thrown over the top and a prusik climb.

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*South Face of Prusik Peak, Cashmere Crags.* Although we had reserved the first ascent of the 900-foot south face of Prusik Peak for the visit of the French climbers, Guido Magnone and Jean Coure, poor organization on the part of their sponsors and their decision to retreat because of lack of time only 200 feet from the summit prevented their completing the climb. From a camp near Enchantment Lakes established by an air-drop, Magnone, Coure, Les MacDonald and I had pushed the route up the beautifully clean granite slabs and cracks of the face. An interesting free chimney began the ascent, followed by a pitch of continuous chickenheads on a sheer slab. The day's climbing was all fifth class with the exception of 100 feet of aid at the high point, 200 feet below the summit. Several days later Dan Davis and I climbed back up the route and found that between the high point and the summit notch there were only two pitches requiring just three pitons for aid and several more for safety. One hanging belay was used. The final summit horn was done by a new variation; we used a bong-bong crack for aid instead of lassoing the final horn. This

wall, in the opinion of the writer, is both the longest ascent and of the most sustained interest in the crags.

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*Snow Creek Wall, Orbit Route.* A second route on the southern half of this slabby 900-foot granite wall was completed in early November after a series of previous attempts had been frustrated by short daylight and early-season snowfall. The route, which starts at a large tree directly beneath an overhang high on the face, led up very thin chrome-alloy-piton cracks with small holds into a shallow furrow. This held promise of continuing toward the overhanging capstone on the wall at a place where it appeared that it could be climbed by a ramp. However, since this lead took 17 pitons and most of the daylight, we had to retreat, leaving ropes. On the final and successful day, Dan Davis and I found a route, largely free-climbing except for occasional aid in the furrow. The final pitch was climbed in the dark. Although a difficult route, perfect rock, small holds and exposure combine to make this a classic climb in this area. Four permanent bolts were left in place on the crux lead.

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*Grand Central Tower, Pesbastin Pinnacles.* The entirely overhanging southeast face was climbed in two sessions of largely artificial climbing, which involved the use of pitons from knife-blades to giant wooden blocks. A few bolts were needed, and at one point a 20-foot overhang was overcome with a free-prusik ascent, by climbing up inside a vertical tunnel and hanging a rope out through an upper opening. The party consisted of Hank Mather, Dan Davis, Eric Bjornstad, and me.

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*Tumwater Canyon.* Two difficult new routes were completed on Midnight Rock last spring. Eric Bjornstad and I climbed the "Black Widow" route, using wooden blocks and pitons placed on attempts two years before, and then finished a free-roof on a line of bolts that had to be extended into a narrow chimney above the overhang. Blocks and 14 bolts with hangers were left in place to assure future climbers more rapid progress. The "Outer Slab" route, a five-pitch climb by Richard Willmott and me, includes the wild traverse of Midnight Rock but goes south to climb a slab featuring a crack that can be jammed and laybacked for two leads with just adequate piton protection. The only bolt was placed to protect a final bouldering move that completes the climb. The west face of Tumwater Tower was also climbed by Bjornstad and me; the difficult climbing was restricted to one pitch of fifth class that had a two-bolt aid section.

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