

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

FRED BECKEY

*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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