

reached the headwall summit. We had intended to climb the last pitch in that very spot. We traversed left about 150 yards, climbed a short, very steep snow slope and a few minutes later were on top of the headwall. This brought us out just a short distance south of the west summit. It was an easy hike from there to the true summit. We chose the northwest ridge for our descent because the temperature was still quite frigid, and this proved to be a little tricky as there are quite steep slopes on this ridge. The ascent of the headwall proper from its base to its summit took 4½ hours with only three five-minute rests. As for the route itself, under normal temperature conditions and later in the season this would probably be a very dangerous route because of rockfall.

PHIL LIZEE and GARY FAULKES, *unattached*

*Mount Rainier, Sunset Amphitheatre Headwall.* This highly impressive headwall of Rainier's Sunset Amphitheatre on the mountain's west side offers a fairly direct route to Liberty Cap. The route we chose begins near the prominent ice cliff, continues diagonally up the face across two large snow patches and up a long snow ramp to the vertical rock buttresses which line the headwall's crest. The major difficulties appeared to be in crossing the schrund and finding an exit passage at the top of the wall. On July 25, Dave Mahre, Gene Prater, Don McPherson, Fred Stanley and I, after a late start because of threatening weather, followed the anticipated route, reaching Liberty Cap in seven hours from our 9200-foot high camp. A rapid ascent was dictated by rockfall which we encountered in the numerous small gullies on the headwall. Suncupping on the snow patches and long ramp made the snow-climbing enjoyable. At the upper end of the ramp, we were elated to find a narrow, twisting gully between two ice-plastered rock walls, and finally emerged from the headwall about 200 feet below Rainier's northernmost summit.

JAMES WICKWIRE, *The Sherpas*

*Mount Stuart, Direct West Wall.* We had often admired and looked at the prominent unclimbed triangular west wall, far below Mount Stuart's granite summit. With powder snow being blown by heavy gusts and winter conditions, Don Cramer and I climbed out of a camp in the Ingalls Creek valley at three A.M. on May 30. Climbing the rock and snow couloir leading to the notch below the west ridge we passed by the planned route, not seeing it amidst the clouds and snow. Returning back down to the large cirque basin below the west wall, we started directly up the ice-covered granite. The *verglas* and hoarfrost made direct aid