

*Cutthroat Peak, South Face of the South Buttress.* Our route starting at the large obvious chimney above and left of the snowfield below the south face was first climbed by Steve Marts, Fred Stanley, and me. About 300 feet of enjoyable unroped climbing in the chimney ends on a large ledge about one-third the way up the face. At the first tree left on the ledge, several class-V leads reach another small tree below a small roof; the roof is passed to the left on a weak aid piton and tension. A traverse left leads to another large ledge and an obvious chimney which ends suddenly; it is possible to climb out up a rotten corner and to get to another chimney. Several more ledges and class-V leads reach the top of the buttress. Nineteen pitons (no bongs or knife-blades) were placed on the exhilarating one-day climb.

JOCK MCPHERSON, *unattached*

*Half Moon Peak, West Face.* One of the last unclimbed faces in the Washington Pass area, the slabby west face of Half Moon, on Kangaroo Ridge, was climbed by Tom Stewart and me on September 11. A total of 33 pitons were used, all being for safety except two moves that required aid. The face is about 900 feet in height and is composed of sound granite, though we encountered some crumbly material when jamming cracks. The most difficult sections were two rightward traverses, one of these being above the overhanging chimney and poorly protected; and a long, exposed crack that had some thin handholds at the crux sections. A final summit headwall, where cracks and the rock became superb, was climbed just before dusk. Four rappels took us down the east face.

FRED BECKEY

*Three Fingers Mountain, West Ridge of North Peak.* This enchanting mountain on the skyline east of Everett is always carefully watched by local climbers, because by regularly observing the vertical black cliff of the North Peak one can soon learn quite accurately to judge the mountain snow and avalanche conditions for the coming weekend. The usual north-peak route ascends the south ridge just right of the black cliff, but left of the black cliff lies a narrow rotten ridge never before considered as a "route" because of a 150-foot vertical rotten step where it passes the black cliff. On July 24 our team of Bob Briggs, Don Johnson, Paul Bergman and me traversed from the Goat Flats shelter northwest to the distant west ridge. A bivouac at 6000 feet on a five-foot-wide heather ledge was one of planned pleasure; we dined on hamburgers, toasted cheese sandwiches, and barbecued chicken, all foil-warmed with firewood

hauled up the last 500 feet. The following day the 150-foot rotten step was climbed in three hours on pitons not even good for confidence, and in retrospect this still cannot be considered a "route" on the mountain, but more aptly just a ridiculous way to get there. Beyond the step, the ridge is merely rotten and airy, and the summit easily reached in another hour. Descent was by the normal south ridge.

KENNETH CARPENTER

*McMillan Spire, North Face.* This much talked-about face was finally climbed on July 16 by Jerry Fuller and me on a three-day traverse of the Southern Picket Range. Our plan was to go light, with a minimum of food, cooking and equipment. We slept in down jackets, using a bivouac sack around us. The first afternoon we made it one mile beyond trail's end on Stetattle Creek, and the next day we reached timberline on Elephant Butte after a day of grueling bush-fighting. Next morning we climbed over the crest of Elephant Butte ridge and descended about 1000 feet on snow to the rock walls of the northern McMillan faces. We traversed west through crevassed-glacier sections and then began a zigzag route pattern of ascent, through snow couloirs, little icy slopes, and around crevasses to a steep, icy névé slope, always on crampons. Finally on rock, we climbed directly upward to the summit, this being about 18 roped pitches. Route-finding and general exposure were more of a problem than technical difficulties, although there were three pitches of reasonably difficult rock work. In general, the rock was very sound. Descent was to the south and a final bivouac was made in the brush of Terror Creek, two hours after dark.

FRED BECKEY

*Lake Ann Buttress.* One of the principal points of Shuksan Arm running between Austin Pass and Mount Shuksan, is the peak just northeast of Lake Ann. Its south face is a 1000-foot rock wall that offers some dubious route problems and has apparently repulsed a number of attempts by interested climbers. Tom Stewart and I spent the afternoon of September 18 climbing three slabby pitches of very good rock up a shallow open-book that lies about center-face, then returned to the luxury of a campsite by the lake. We continued the route in the morning, finding what appeared from below to be a simple exit onto the upper face to be a semi-horror pitch, with loose blocks and expanding cracks. Some aid was needed here and later again on a similar pitch 300 feet higher. The climb is fairly exposed and continuously technical. There is no real letup