

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