

the base of the buttress at 13,000 feet, but we felt the technical difficulties were too difficult for us on the buttress itself. From Base Camp to P12,354 feet (at  $60^{\circ} 19' 30''$  N,  $141^{\circ} 04' 00''$  W), which we called "Windy Peak" there were no technical difficulties. The only danger was a large ice cliff at 10,000 feet which had a bad habit of avalanching. From Windy Peak to the base of the buttress there is a 900-foot descent to a ridge which leads to the buttress above. On the descent we placed 600 feet of fixed rope. At the base of the buttress there was a 200-yard-wide flat area.

KENYON KING, *Colorado State University Mountaineering Club*

*Takhinsha Mountains.* The rugged Takhinsha Mountains, west of Haines, were explored for the first time in June. Our party consisted of David Chappellear, Gil Dewart, Robert Rickey, Dave Seidman and me as leader. We were landed at 4000 feet on the "Jajee" (Snowshoe) Glacier, a branch of the Casement Glacier, by bush pilot Layton Bennett of Haines. We made seven first ascents of peaks, to which we gave Tlingit Indian names: north snow summit of Mount "Tlingit Ankawoo" (Chief; c. 7400 feet) by north ridge from east side. (The main summit, highest in the Takhinsha Mountains, c. 7550 feet, was not reached, two attempts failing because of bad weather and lack of time on June 9 and 13.); Mount "Atli" (Mother; 6452 feet) by east ridge and north face, June 7; Mount "Doo-see" (His Daughter; 6025 feet) from east, June 11; Mount "Yeet" (Son; 6075 feet) by east ridge, June 14; Mount "Dech" (Two; 7475 feet), second highest peak, climbed from east side by north snow ridge, June 19; Mount "Klelchlu" (Butterfly; 7300 feet) by south face, June 21; Mount "Kotan" (Summer; 7300 feet) by west face, June 21. Although the elevations are not high, most of the peaks are extremely rugged and from the north side rise nearly from sea level. A full article and map appear in *Appalachia* of December, 1966.

LAWRENCE E. NIELSEN

### *Washington—Cascade Mountains*

*Mount Rainier, Central Mowich Face.* An ascent of the central part of this broad and steep face was first made July 23 and 24 by Dick Pargeter, Gene Prater, Jim Wickwire and me. This new route differed from the June 1957 route by Beckey, Gordon, Hornbein, Rupley and Staley in that it ascended directly above the North Mowich Glacier and through the system of rock bands at the top of the face. Ice-climbing conditions were ideal in late July; however, any ascent of the face more than a week later would have involved rockfall hazard and considerably more blue ice. The

base of the face was reached in 7½ hours from the car at St. Andrews Creek on the West Side Road, via Klapatche and St. Andrews Park, lower Puyallup Cleaver, and a crossing of the Puyallup, South Mowich and Edmunds Glaciers. Our lightweight 4-man tent was pitched at 9600 feet on the crest of a small *nunatak* between the upper North Mowich and Edmunds Glaciers. While basking in the afternoon sun we were entertained at close proximity by the largest ice avalanche any of us had ever observed on Rainier.

At 5:30 A.M. we left camp and, after crossing the toe of yesterday's avalanche, tackled the ever steepening slope above. The early part of the ascent was up firm frozen snow whose corrugated surface provided good footing. Gradually patches of blue ice were encountered and we had to swing the axe in places. Generally, our steady upward progress on the 45° to 50° slope was expedited by use of front crampon points. At 13,000 feet the lower of the rock bands was reached via a steep apex of ice. Here, the 12-foot vertical cliff was climbed quickly as icicles and *verglas* provided incentive to get more secure footing in crusted snow on the ledge above. We traversed the ledge around a narrow corner to the left which placed us in a steep ice chute between the rock bands and the prominent ice cliff-bulge that caps the face. After chopping a few steps up the chute and placing one coathanger ice-screw "for looks", we finally gained the warm sunlight above the face at 11:30 A.M. Following a brief pause to catch our breath and note small figures coming into view on the Ptarmigan Ridge route below, we plodded an hour to 14,112-foot Liberty Cap. Our descent was made via the Tahoma Glacier "Sickle" and over the crest of lower St. Andrews Rock. Extremely slushy snow conditions had us all mentally plunging into bottomless crevasses before we reached Puyallup Cleaver. Arriving at the car at 7:30 P.M., we were once again convinced that a descent of Rainier on a hot summer day is a greater test of nerves than is the ascent.

DEE MOLENAAR

*The Blockhouse, South Face.* High on the edge of the Cashmere Crag sits The Blockhouse, one of the Crag's largest and sheerest rock formations, seldom visited since it is not near a trail. John Brottem, Dave Beckstead and I climbed a most pleasurable new route, the south face from the south notch, on September 21, from a camp near timberline just east of the peak. Leaving a couloir on the southeast side was a problem because of overhanging rock. Three bolts were needed here, and after some difficult aid, three more to avoid a balanced loose rock, later dislodged. Once above