

level ledge. Climb right on the face above on aid to a wide sloping platform that leads north to a left-leaning dièdre. One hundred thirty feet of class 5 on its left wall gains a rubble heap where difficulties end. Traverse left, then up for two class 4-5 leads to the summit. 75 pitons and 4 bolts were placed. Incipient cracks in the Sloan Peak gneiss make knifeblades and rurps a necessity, and the first crack requires 1-4" and two smaller bongs. NCCS IV, F8, A4.

MIKE HEATH

*White Chuck Mountain, South Face.* On August 31, Ted Carpenter, Mike Heath, and I made the first ascent of the south face on this often climbed peak located some 10 miles east-southeast of Darrington. From the basin on the west side of the peak, which can now be reached by a short hike from a logging road at 4000 feet, we climbed rockslides below the southwest face to an elevation of 6000 feet at a point just opposite an alpine pond. The narrow south face lies between two steep rock couloirs on a direct line between this pond and the summit. Two hundred feet of rock scrambling brought us to the base of the steep 800-foot face. The route lies on the left side of the face and follows a series of chimneys interrupted by short ledges to within sixty feet of the summit, and there a heather ledge leads right to the south ridge and the top. The face is continuous class 4 climbing with several class 5 pitches, including two difficult exits at the top of chimneys. Six nuts and two pitons were used for protection. Easy access and excellent rock (solid green schist) make this an attractive climb.

JOSEPH VANCE

*Gunsight Peak (Blue Mountain), New Routes on the North and Center Peaks.* A six-day trip into the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, near the head of the west fork of Agnes Creek, yielded two fine alpine granite routes on the faces of triple-summitted Gunsight Peak, but almost had disastrous consequences resulting from the high water runoff in June, almost a month later than the usual danger period. Four of us lost almost a day in just getting across the south fork of Agnes Creek, finally climbing a slippery log in a thundering canyon with the aid of about six pitons. We then set up a tyrolean traverse from trees at a different location for hauling packs and for the return trip out. In between these exasperating episodes I was chased by a black bear. To make matters even more hectic, after meeting Leif Patterson a short time later on the

trail, we had walked only a few minutes and encountered another bear running down the trail at us. A shout and some frantic running dispersed all three of us, and needless to say, we felt surrounded by bears. Climbing up the slopes of Icy Creek took us to a lovely rock ridge above timberline, high alongside the edge of the Chickamin Glacier. While two of our group repeated some standard climbs, Patterson and I climbed the north-west face of the north peak of Gunsight on June 19, a project that required 35 pitons, and a good many of these on an overhanging lead to the north summit ridge. Our other new climb was on the following day, when we pushed a fine free route on the southwest face of the central peak (ten pitons) where the granite was magnificent. The unusual hot weather broke on the hike out, and it began to rain as we discovered that the log ford was impossible. I was swept off my feet twice in overflow water, just to prove this out. By a stroke of luck two of our group spotted a new log crossing. Patterson got dunked going first across the tyrolean, and nightfall halted the project with two on each bank. Bears fortunately did not bother to visit us that night, and a blazing fire and hot tea made us forget our wet clothes.

FRED BECKEY

*Spire Point, South Face.* On September 14, Paul Karkiainen and I made the first ascent of the south face of 8220-foot Spire Point, 600 feet above the snow high over Cub Lake in the Dome Peak country. The route starts at a chimney west of the bottom of the face and goes fairly directly to the summit. A few pitons were used as well as a nylon sling which came off its rock projection when it was most needed and went shooting down the rope to the belayer. NCCS IV, F6, except for an easier section in upper mid-face.

DICK BENEDICT, *unattached*

*Sharkfin Tower, Northwest Face.* On July 1, Dan Raish, Woody Savage and I made the first recorded ascent on the north side of this small but prominent peak above Boston Basin. A drop over Sharkfin Col and a short traverse to the east on the Boston Glacier brought us to a steep ice tongue leading up the northwest rib of the tower. After three 150-foot leads on 50°-60° névé, the crest of the arête was reached and the remaining 500 feet were all on the excellent Sharkfin quartz diorite. Climbing was all moderate class 4 with one class 5 lead required to exit from the rib onto the upper north face. This mixed ice and rock route has the