

considerably steeper and harder ice, and picked out the most reasonable route up the 50-foot rock cliff. This rock cliff seemed to be solid at the base (even enjoyable except for the cold, and in one place the icicle hand-holds) but was pure "crud" at the upper half. Mead found the pitch particularly interesting with his glasses getting broken by falling ice as he led the pitch. It was hard class 5 or easy class 6, and those pitons which didn't fall out were left in. The rock band brought us to the base of the steep ice slopes immediately right of the vertical ice cliff, and the final 600 feet of difficult climbing were up these steep ice slopes before they started rounding off onto Liberty Cap Glacier. About five more Salewa ice screws were used on this final ice slope. Only a long slog in a cold wind remained for us to get to Liberty Cap. Our descent was made via the Tahoma Glacier, which also gave some problems when we got off route. This North Mowich Face is definitely one of the hardest routes on Mount Rainier, or at least it seemed so on this first ascent.

DANIEL R. DAVIS

*Mount Rainier, Liberty Wall.* On June 30 Roger Oborn, Don Jones and I completed the first ascent of Liberty Wall, so named because it is a large cirque wall between Liberty Ridge and Ptarmigan Ridge, and below the Liberty Cap Glacier on Liberty Cap itself. On the 29th we left our car at Mowich Lake and hiked through Spray Park to the Russell Glacier, where we spent the night at about 8300 feet on a ramp between the Carbon Glacier and the Russell Glacier. After a late start at three A.M. we headed for the large schrund at the west head of the Carbon Glacier. Towering and overhanging above the cirque wall was the Liberty Cap Glacier ice wall. We ascended straight up the middle (between Liberty Ridge and Ptarmigan Ridge). First we crossed the large schrund and then cramponed up hard snow and ice toward the rock bands. Most of the way on the route we 12-pointed up a long continuous rib, always hoping this would be above most of any ice and rock falling from above. On the rock bands there was mixed rock and ice for several short leads, followed by more 12-pointing up ice and hard snow covered by six inches of new snow, until we got to a chute through the ice cliff and up onto Liberty Cap Glacier at about 12,000 feet. There we could relax a little away from most falling objects from above and soon joined into the Ptarmigan Ridge route to Liberty Cap and the summit. For years I had looked at the possibilities of this route, and as had been hoped we found

it to be an enjoyable and challenging route, safest in June with more snow and colder conditions.

PAUL MYHRE, *unattached*

*Mount Snoqualmie, Northwest Face.* I had noticed this face several times from neighboring peaks before I finally got around to visiting it. On September 29 I started from the new Alpental ski area by taking the Snow Lake trail as far as the Snoqualmie-Chair ridge and then following the crest of this ridge east toward Mount Snoqualmie. At about 5240 feet, just before the ridge starts climbing more steeply, I dropped to the basin on the north side, above which is the northwest face of Mount Snoqualmie. While a direct ascent of this 1000-foot rock face looked interesting and worth while, I considered the time left in this one-day outing, the difficulties I could see on the face, the unknown difficulties, and finally how much more difficult and time consuming it would all be alone. Finally I chose a steep, narrow, V-shaped, scree, rock, and snow couloir which cuts through the left side of the face. (There is a broad gully still farther left, beyond the face, which looked too easy to consider.) Once in the couloir the rest of the route is pretty much determined, with only one big choice left to make. Near the top, the couloir forms a "Y". I chose the much easier right branch, although I was very pessimistic about where it might end. Happily it ended at the ridge crest at the very top of the wall, from where there was only a short and easy scramble to the summit. The couloir was loose and unpleasant scree at the bottom, but farther up it varied between climbing on very hard snow or ice and climbing on mixed quality rock, usually in the moat between the ice and the side of the couloir. Perhaps the crux was a section where the rock was holdless and the ice was vertical, which I climbed by fist jams between the rock and ice surfaces. The climb would have been much easier with an ice axe or crampons, neither of which I had along, and would also have been easier earlier in the year when the snow would be softer and more extensive.

DANIEL R. DAVIS

*Cashmere Crags, The Blockhouse and The Rhombic.* From a high camp on Mole Ridge near The Hook, on September 1 Al Errington and I climbed a new route up The Blockhouse via its north ridge. The route began at the start of the standard northwest face route and followed the ridge line for three pitches, and then rejoined the standard route for the final pitch to the summit rim. Lichen, wet from the previous night's