

a good deal of bolting, but not as much as we had been lead to fear; both the free and aid climbing had been superlative, mostly on grand rock. In short, this is a climb in a region of great alpine beauty that can now be repeated in a long day; while our effort justifies a Grade V rating, it will become a Grade IV now that bolts and additional holes are in. A good selection of pitons, including 2 of all bong sizes up to 4 inches, is advised, and a tapered skyhook to fit ¼-inch drilled holes will be needed until a succeeding party drills these out and inserts needed bolts. Summary: 2 bivouacs; 68 pitons; 3 nuts; 9 belays; 26 bolts; 4 hookholes; 3 skyhooks. NCCS IV, FB, A4.

FRED BECKEY

*Colonial Peak, Northeast Gully, East Ridge.* On July 5, Scott Masonholder and I left Colonial Creek Campground and hiked up the new 1½-mile trail which follows Colonial Creek on the left side. Leaving the trail, we followed a dry creek bed which led to a steep brush and forest climb to the base of the north face. A snow gully on the northeast face was climbed for about 1000 feet averaging 40° to 45°. From the top of the gully the east ridge was followed to the summit. Several ridge blocks were avoided by traversing on the south side of the ridge. The ascent of this new route took about 9 hours and involved class 2 and 3 rock.

DALLAS KLOKE

*Southern Pickets, East Twin Needle.* McMillan Cirque was revisited in early July, and a very marked change was noted in the glaciers over the past six years; photos show higher ice walls on the bulge of the hanging glaciers, and two glaciers that were easily ascended in 1962 were virtually impassable with jumbled ice blocks and wall to wall crevasses. On this trip we climbed the Crescent Creek Needles (Twin Needles) from the Mustard Glacier via a ledge that lies at the gentle angle of the west dip of the Pickets. The ledge is mixed rock slabs and steep snow. The West Needle is an easy walk. The Needle Notch was gained by dropping south down the West Needle and traversing into it on ledges. The pitch out of the notch required several pitons and an aid nut. From there a scramble up less steep rock gained the blade summit ridge. On the summit we found no evidence of a prior ascent, and a later check in Seattle with Phil Sharpe, who with Pete Schoening had erroneously been credited with an earlier first ascent of the East Needle, confirmed ours as the actual first ascent. Both Needles have vertical east face walls with occasional overhangs, as does the east side of Himmelgeister Horn. Although the weather closed in preventing further climbs, this

still remains a fantastic place to visit even when its rock ribs are rising into swirling gray clouds. As an approach route, the twenty-hour hike in along Sourdough Ridge is recommended for its alpine meadow travel, although the traverse into the Cirque under the "bowling alley" of the McMillan Glacier is now more exciting than ever. The icefall made several passes at us and our brave but foolish photographer got a picture of ice bouncing over our heads in spite of our shouts to get back under. Fortunately he got away with only one clod on the shoulder. Our party consisted of Peter Renz, Larry Clark, Joe and Joan Firey.

JOAN FIREY, *The Mountaineers*

*Swiss Peak, via Central Pillar on Northeast Face.* Swiss Peak (c. 7840 feet) is situated between Mount Fury and Phantom Peak above the headwaters of Luna Creek. We were elated on the summit to find no cairn or evidence of prior ascents. On July 28 Martin Epp, Ernst von Allmen and I started at the base of the central pillar on the northeast face of the peak. We ascended directly for several rope lengths to a grassy ledge at the base of the vertical yellow wall on the north side of the pillar. A short traverse under this wall led to the base of the rotten "Pudding Chimney," two rope-lengths to its top with no protection. Just above it we placed a piton and traversed left onto the center of the pillar. A chimney between the pillar and a large flake on the north side led to our bivouac ledge. The remainder of the climb went directly up the center of the pillar for 15 rope-lengths of moderate free climbing. The upper part of the pillar fades into an area of many towers, but staying left avoided the difficult and loose sections, and we gained the summit on July 29. This was a long climb of 27 pitches. Our descent involved rappels on loose rock and was made to a camp in the Luna-Challenger cirque via the glacial tongue east of Phantom Peak.

ANDREW CARSON, *unattached*

*Mount Challenger, Southeast Face.* On July 27 Martin Epp, Ernst von Allmen and I climbed this route above Luna Creek, starting from the col between the face and the prominent gendarme. We followed the yellow *dièdre* until close to the overhanging section, traversed right a half rope-length on flakes, and then ascended the pillar above directly for two rope-lengths to a prominent horizontal dike. We could have continued directly for another rope-length of difficult F6, but chose to traverse left and up along the dike to a pedestal, from where we headed up and right