

to a belay tree. After a rope-length left to another belay tree in a chimney, a short wall led to a bench where the climbers turned left up a difficult (F7) wall and vertical jam-crack. A long lead first in an open-book and then in a chimney ended at an awkward belay on a chockstone. Another 200 feet in the chimney placed the climbers beneath the large roof in the chimney. This problem (F7 or F8) was passed by a short traverse right, then up and over the roof, where a hand traverse led back into the chimney, which was followed to the top. Ten hours were required for this climb from the ranger station.

Wyoming—Wind River Range

Watchtower, Northeast Face, Cirque of Towers. On June 27, Matt Hale and I made the first ascent of this fine, though by no means extreme, face. Ours seemed to be the easiest line, though others were obviously possible. From Cirque Lake climb the couloir that leads to the highest col below the east ridge of Watchtower. Leave this couloir two-thirds of the way up it and scramble behind a separate tower on the right. The climb begins in the obvious wide chimney. *1st pitch:* Up and over ceiling-like block in chimney; continue left over two tricky bulges to ledge. (F7). *2nd pitch:* Walk left on ledge for better belay spot. Then up right-facing inside corner, diagonal easily right, then traverse thinly back left and up to top of the inside corner to ledge. (F5). *3rd pitch* (the crux): Step left around corner, then up easy right diagonal, which becomes a hard, overhanging inside corner facing right. Two strenuous laybacks (the second avoidable by dropping a few feet to the right on a slab) lead to an exit left via good holds over the overhanging. (F8). *4th pitch:* Up and right on easy stuff, then over loose left-facing inside corner. (F6). *5th Pitch:* Easy scramble up and left to skyline ridge. *6th Pitch:* Climb toward left-hand of the two left-facing inside corners, then hand-traverse to the right-hand one. Chimney 20 feet, step out left to ledge, then up to belay ledge. (F5). From here scramble up and right 350 feet to the summit. NCCS III, F8.

A few days later we put in the bottom three pitches of the apparently unclimbed southwest face of Pingora, including a superb thin F8 pitch that Hale led. Two more difficult pitches would probably conclude this excellent climb, which goes straight up the face slightly right of its center. A deceptive entry in that most confusing of all guide books, Bonney & Bonney, may have led climbers to assume this face had been done by Bell and Glover in 1947. In addition, a "Grade 6" label in the Bonney book on the direct south ridge of Pingora may have scared climbers off one of the

nicest three-pitch climbs anywhere, which we would rate no harder than NCCS II, F6.

DAVID S. ROBERTS

Wind River Peak, New Route on the North Buttress. Late in August, Jim Stoddard and I climbed a gully from the basin west (Black Joe Lake approach) to the notch which separates the final section of Wind River Peak from "Little El Cap" and points north. In three pitches from there we reached the great talus blocks that lead to the true summit. The last of these leads was somewhat of a problem, taking a good deal of time because of verglas, cold hands and awkward piton placement. The rock did not seem especially sound, but it was adequate. The route can easily be identified by the right-slanting crack on the third pitch, just to the right of the buttress corner.

FRED BECKEY

Pilot Knob, South Face. This rounded but steep 600-foot dome at the northwest end of Grave Lake rises at the edge of the trail: one can literally rope there. In 1966 Jerry Fuller and I climbed to the final ledge on the south face, using 52 pitons on difficult free and aid climbing. Lack of time and rain prevented its completion. In early September Dick Ross and I completed the final fifth-class pitch. Because of bad weather, we did not repeat the lower pitches and traversed in from the west to join the portion already climbed.

FRED BECKEY

Wyoming—Black Hills

Devils Tower. El Matador route on the west face was first climbed in September, 1967 by Eric Bjornstad and me; it ranged from one to three columns south of the McCarthy route. We followed a south-facing vertical dihedral for two serious pitches and then struck out through a prominent overhang, which was the crux of the ascent. We used 80 pitons and 8 nuts, largely for aid. NCCS IV, A3.

FRED BECKEY

Devils Tower. On June 7 Dave Ingalls and I climbed a new route, "Exit-Us," on the Devils Tower. It has the same start as for the "Cave." Pitch 1: Climb up crack and proceed diagonally right to a belay stance. Pitch 2: Climb crack above and nail 60 feet to a sling belay. Pitch 3: Nail 80 feet to a small horizontal bulge. Tension traverse to another sling belay. Pitch 4: Follow crack above to the meadows. (This is the same top pitch as the "Cave." II, F6, A3.

ROY KLIGFIELD, *Columbia Mountaineering Club*