

Boundary Range. In late July Dr. Wayne M. Smith, Harte Bressler, Louis Miller and John Schutt made the second ascent of Mount Bressler (c. 8000 feet). The first ascent of Gorgon Spire (c. 7200 feet), the dominant peak at the head of the unnamed southeast tributary to the Gilkey Glacier, was made by Dr. Alfred Pichak, William Lokey and Andy Miller.

MAYNARD M. MILLER

Washington – Cascade Mountains

Mount Rainier, Willis Wall, Winter Ascent. After years of trying, the north face of Mount Rainier has finally been climbed in the winter. In mid-February, 1970 Jim Wickwire and I made the third ascent of the 4000-foot Willis Wall via the newest and hardest route on the mountain. We are calling it the “Brumal Buttress”. The climb took five days.

ALEX BERTULIS

Middle Chief, Main South Peak. Located south of Dutch Miller Gap between Summit Chief and Little Big Chief, the true summit of this peak is about 2 feet higher and 75 feet south of the normally accepted summit. It is virtually unattainable except by the connecting ridge. On August 13 Ron Miller, Frank Dallman and I made the exposed traverse using two slings and four nuts.

KENN CARPENTER

The Boxtop, East Face. The east face of this interesting tower in the Cashmere Crags was first climbed on July 6 by Tom Oas and me. It is a two-hour, strenuous route on superb rock. One first scrambles to the top of the Mount Temple ridge east of the peak from either the north or the south via easy ledges. There, from the right-hand base of the face, layback and jam a steep crack and block system leading up and left 50 feet to a wide mantle shelf, and climb over an awkward bulge above a sharp-edged block at the left-hand edge of the shelf. An easy jam-crack above leads 25 feet to a large platform. Use a shoulder-stand (may go free, but difficult to protect and scary) to enter the right-hand of two overhanging jam-cracks at the inside corner of the platform, then stem a wide chimney for 30 feet to the summit. A horn at the west end of the summit can be used for a 150-ft. rappel to the bottom of the north face. About five angles up to 1½" plus several nuts will be useful. After the climb, an additional

entertainment option is to leave the area by trailless Rat Creek; allow an extra 7 hours. NCCS II, F8.

MIKE HEATH

Vesper Peak, North Face. Although this face has some of the finest granite in Washington, it will never light anyone's fire. Broken by a large ledge system two-thirds of the way up, this 1200-foot face lacks any "classic" lines. Between the Vesper Glacier below and this ledge are many equally good routes waiting to be done. Above the ledge are two slabs, the east one rising at an angle of 65° or more to the summit, and a lower-angle one to the west. Here the future will be determined by ethics, since cracks are rare. On August 3, Mike Heath, B. J. Heath, Tom Oas and I left the glacier between Vesper and Big Four Mountain near the lowest point of the face and climbed up for four leads (F5 to F8). We scrambled several hundred feet and belayed one lead (F6) to the scrub tree at the lower right-hand corner of the high-angle slab. Next we climbed a small overhang (F4) and up and right along a heather ledge to its end. We ascended up and right to the edge of the slab on broken blocks (F7). The next two leads are the crux of the climb. The first goes up with poor protection to a belay bolt (F7). The next lead is about 70 feet with weak protection (F8) and generally follows the west edge of the slab to the summit. Jim Langdon, who we later discovered had traversed out onto this upper slab in 1968, climbed further to the left and encountered similar problems on these last two leads. Our approach to the peak was via the Sunshine Mine trail and over Headlee Pass, and then over the north ridge of Vesper to the glacier. Ascent from the glacier took 6 hours and required about 20 pitons and several nuts. NCCS II or III, F8.

BILL SUMNER, *unaffiliated*

Witch Doctor Wall. Aerial photography has illuminated the few remaining "secrets" of the North Cascades, but a newly cut logging road south of Darrington led to the 'discovery' of a marvelous 75° granite wall, which rises 1100-feet. It can be seen from the summit of Jumbo. The wall forms the east flank of a northwest spur of Helena Peak, the spur peak simply marked 4235 on the topographic map. It is as well hidden as a face can be, for flanking summits and crooked valley patterns keep it well out of view. Interestingly enough, the low summit point of this spur had likely never been reached before 1969, and is quite possibly the most difficult 4000-foot summit in the state; we are not certain what the easiest route to its top would be, but nothing simple has been apparent to date.