

An exploration in the fall of 1968 led to the discovery of a simple route to the base, as well as the seemingly classic route near the center of the wall. Weather was disagreeable, and after doing two pitches we decided dry rock was essential. David Wagner, Thom Nephew, and I made the climb on July 17 and 18. We repeated the "running leap", downward from a dead-end ledge to a groove. From there on, the route nearly alternates pitches: an aid pitch followed by a free one. The discovery of a solitary, very thin face crack up what looked like a certain blank wall allowed us to keep the bolt bag in the rucksack for the entire climb. Loose blocks on the fifth pitch almost caused a "let's go down" vote, but fortunately the rock above suddenly improved. A vertical wall festooned with cedars required some interesting techniques with tie-off loops; somehow, the growth seemed more permanent than the blocks. An entire pitch of exposed nailing was followed by the alternating free pitch; this one included another "leap", but this time from tree to tree. Above here the rock became more massive with very little growth. Jam-cracks, friction, and confident nailing concluded the difficulties. We scrambled south to the point of 4235, and there encountered mild panic attempting to traverse the narrow teeth leading toward Helena. Racing a rapidly descending sun, we gave up on that and made a series of fast rappels down the western slabs. NCCS V, F7, A3.

FRED BECKEY

*Liberty Mountain, North Ridge.* For years we had looked at this steep ridge from a distance, always fearing the horrible brush fight that separated it from the distant access roads. On June 1 Ron Miller and I made the first ascent of the ridge by working our way up from the logging roads on the north side of Green Mountain; spur roads now reach the headwaters of Canyon Creek. We left them where the Windy Pass drainage enters Canyon Creek. The expected brush was there, almost all the way to Windy Pass. From our high camp at the pass we headed south on the divide and soon reached the mountain. The north ridge starts immediately up from the divide crest. The first 200 feet is Class-IV heather, brush, mixed rock, and trees, and then a level 20-foot rock bench on the ridge crest affords an excellent place to observe and plan the remainder. The next lead is 100 feet of class V rotten rock, 20 feet of which is absolutely vertical. The lead from here is 100 feet of Class IV from a worthless belay and with 500 feet of exposure below. The North Peak is soon easily reached, and we found no cairn present anywhere. We continued the ridge to the main summit on Class-IV rock, again quite rotten, and about 300

feet away. Descent was back to the North Peak and then down by the northwest ridge and a traverse back to Windy Pass.

KENN CARPENTER

*Devil's Peak, new routes.* A popular spring climb, this peak lies at the headwaters of Coal Creek east of Silverton. In 1962 the *North Face* was climbed by Al Clairmont and Ray Pruiett via a large 100-foot chimney and steep moss-covered friable rock which is unsuitable for pitons. The 300-foot direct *East Face* was climbed in 1963 by Dick Nelson, Mike Killien, and Dallas Kloke. Five pitons were required for protection on the four leads of Class IV-V rock.

*Buckeye Mountain.* This small peak lies on the south-southeast ridge from Whitehorse Mountain, about a half mile distant. Rich Carlstad and I made its first ascent on August 9, as a prelude to our fifth ascent of Mount Bullon the following day. From Darrington, we used the Squire Creek approach, reaching a high camp above timber line about a mile south of the peak, and a quarter of a mile below the 5200-foot notch on the ridge crest that gives access to the Bullon region. From camp we traversed north past the 1956 jet crash, keeping on the east slopes of the divide, and climbed to the peak's east ridge, gaining the ridge about 100 feet from the top via a short Class-IV chimney. This is a distinctive pinnacle when viewed from Whitehorse, Bullon, and Jumbo.

KENN CARPENTER

*"The Bat", "The Coccyx", "Perdition Peak".* These previously unnamed and unclimbed peaks on the Newhalem-Marble Creek and McAllister-Marble Creek divides were topped by Phil Dahl and me in August 1967. From the end of the overgrown logging road up Newhalem Creek we first climbed southeasterly to Stout Lake, then crossed south over a ridge to what we call Purgatory Pond about one mile away. Angling southwest we climbed the east ridge (Class III) of a low but impressive looking double-summitted peak (6475 feet and 6417 feet) which we named "The Bat" for its distinctive shape. On the McAllister-Marble Creek divide we climbed the 7280-foot tail-end peak and dubbed it "The Coccyx"; ascent was via the north ridge. About a mile and a half southeast of "The Coccyx" is the highest peak in this group, 7675-foot "Perdition Peak", which we ascended via the exposed and serrated Class-IV west ridge.