

made from here in two bivouacs, with one entire day required on the final 800-foot spire. Rock on the tower itself was good, and there was only minor aid despite steepness. The route, however, was devious and not obvious, requiring nine leads on the east side. Incidents included one fall and a major, unprovoked landslide which took out half our bivouac ledge a couple hours before we were to reoccupy it in descent. Two other class-5 rock peaks were climbed further south toward Scenery Lake, and on one of these we experienced the major earthquake which shook Alaska this summer. A memorable sensation! There are many technically difficult unclimbed peaks in the Thumb area, and some nice routes on the Devil itself.

RICHARD R. CULBERT

Colonel Foster, East Face. The main attraction of this wall is that it is quite likely the largest on Vancouver Island—about 3300 feet high. It was climbed in September by Fred Douglas, Paul Starr and me by a buttress leading to the highest peak of the many-summitted massif. Rock was fairly good and generally easier than had been expected, with trivial aid. Only one bivouac was required. This peak, however, is a long, complex and demanding climb by any known route. (First visited in 1968 by Mike Walsh solo!) It required the balance of that day to get off the beast. Other buttresses on the north part of this wall may offer sustained difficulties on good rock.

RICHARD R. CULBERT

Washington—Cascade Mountains

Snow Creek Wall, Country Club Route. Thwarted by bad weather, and somewhat put-off by the overabundance of people heading for the north side of Mount Stuart, we sighted instead on nearby Snow Creek Wall for our after-Christmas adventure. On December 30-31, P. Ekman, J. Ossiander, J. Weis, and I made the first winter ascent of the Country Club route. Conditions were such as to make the climb rather different from the usual summer romp, and it took us two days going alpine style to complete the eight roped pitches to the top, two of which were quite severe (ropes were also used below the first pitch due to almost continuous powder snow slides coming off the top of the wall). The pitch leading to the Northern Dihedral makes a 165-foot rope a definite asset. The climb was mostly mixed, and crampons were worn at all times.

MANUEL A. GONZALEZ, *Unaffiliated*

Other winter climbs include the Esmeralda Gully and Gerhardt's Crystal Blue Persuasion as well as the annual attempts on the North Ridge of Mount Stuart.