

Wyoming—Tetons

Nez Perce, First Winter Ascent. David George and George Lowe made the first winter ascent of this peak in February. Our original objective was the traverse from Nez Perce to the Middle Teton, but a foot of new snow during the day of the climb provided an excuse to quit after the first peak.

GEORGE LOWE

Mount Owen, Winter Ascent. On March 20 Peter Lev, David Lowe and George Lowe made a fast winter ascent of Mount Owen, travelling from the Beaver Creek area to the summit and back to Beaver Creek in one day.

GEORGE LOWE

Mount Owen, Run-Don't-Walk Couloir. Named from a distance several years ago, this couloir which lies between the north ridge and the Crescent Arête of Mount Owen has a particularly evil appearance, marked by rock scars and running water when it is not filled with ice. It was first climbed on July 6 by John Bouchard and me. The couloir was approached via the northeast snowfields to a point where we could traverse right to a narrow ridge, just left of the couloir. After a bivouac on this ridge, we started at five A.M., climbing the couloir until just below the first ice bulge. This 30-foot overhanging ice bulge had melted through, leaving an impassable gap of 15 feet. This section was bypassed by climbing a very difficult rock pitch to the left (F9-A3). We continued up the extremely narrow couloir (some objective dangers from falling ice if the weather is warm), encountering three more steep ice bulges before emerging onto the upper section of the couloir. Moderate-angle snow was then followed for six pitches. From near the top of the couloir we traversed left to the northeast snowfields which we followed to the summit, arriving at seven P.M. For optimum conditions this route should be done earlier in the season when the ice would still be intact.

STEPHEN ARSENAULT

Grand Teton, Exum Route, First Winter Ascent. From February 19 to 21 David Lowe, Jock Glidden, and David Smith made the first winter ascent of this popular summer climb. Leaving Moose at seven A.M. on the 19th, we skied to the Platforms in Garnet Canyon and cached our skis. From there to the Lower Saddle was simply walking up the windblown moraine. On the 20th we ascended the Exum Route in marginal weather, encountering mixed ice and rock all the way. Although prepared for much snow, there was relatively little on the ridge proper. Still, crampons were justified throughout but awkward in places, especially the Friction Pitch and the last move off Wall Street. This latter, a breeze in the summer, proved to be the crux of the climb, led by Lowe