

the last pitch or two of Curtis Ridge. Rockfall and heavy, unconsolidated snow hampered us. Grade IV or V.

GREGORY C. MARKOV, *Unaffiliated*

*Mount Rainier, Direct Russell Cliff.* On July 7 to 8 the first direct ascent of Russell Cliff was accomplished by Jim Springer, Dean Bentley, and me, all seasonal NPS rangers; with the support of Gordon Ball of Seattle. The route follows the 1960 Russell Cliff—Upper Curtis Ridge route, traversing across the broken Winthrop Glacier, then ascending to the base of the large, steep snow face (known alternately as the "Russell Bowl" or "Ball's Wall"). From here, the route proceeds directly up the snow face to the three prominent rock bands which offer the only major difficulty. We ascended the points of weakness in each of the rock bands, using a picket and two flukes for protection. The rock on Russell Cliff, like all Mount Rainier rock, cannot be trusted; in addition, the snow between the bands was found to be very rotten, frequently giving way under foot pressure to reveal a thin coating of brittle water ice beneath. The snow ledges we traversed on the upper part of the route were about five to fifteen feet in width, and measured about 55°, with one short pitch of 65°. We named the route "Dalle-Molle's Wet Daiber" after both John Dalle-Molle and Ome Daiber. 8 hours from Camp Schurman to summit. Grade II.

JOHN L. THOMPSON, *Unaffiliated*

*Big Four, North Face.* January 3, 1974, Rich Carlstad and Cal Folsom climbed the gully to the east of the standard north rib route. Descent was made by Route Two to the saddle between Hall Peak and Big Four. 13 hours round trip.

*Ten Peak Mountain, North Buttress.* This is the rather prominent buttress which can be seen on the Sierra Club poster, "The Wild Cascades." In mid-August, Phil Leatherman and I made the approach via the White River trail and a cross-country high route through a lovely, untrammelled basin. The climbing on this 1800-foot granitic buttress ranged from third class to fifth class (up to F7 or F8). Grade II or III.

GREGORY C. MARKOV, *Unaffiliated*

*P 4245, "Exfoliation Dome" north of Helena Peak.* On September 15, the north ridge of this uncharacteristic granite formation a few miles south of Darrington was climbed by Greg Ball and me. Approach was from the west left of a slabby stream gully to a large tree on the ridge crest just below where the ridge steepens. A long free pitch on slabs and cracks on the ridge crest leads to a ledge beneath a twenty-foot wall. Two shorter pitches, on both of which we used some aid, led to the end

of the roped climbing. Several hundred feet of scrambling including a knife-edge traverse took us to the top. Time: five hours from the car. F7, Al. A selection of small nuts plus a blade or two are sufficient. This route probably involves less roped climbing than any other on the dome.

BILL FRYBERGER, *Unaffiliated*

*Forbidden Peak, Northwest Face.* This very aesthetic alpine route combines a good short ice climb on the west face of the north ridge with the very enjoyable rock climbing of the upper north-ridge route. The ice face is composed of two sections divided by a narrow constriction, the upper section ending at the cornice in the middle of the north ridge. After an initial difficult bergschrund the route consisted of approximately 900 feet of front pointing on hard, brittle ice covered by a thin layer of fresh snow reaching an angle of 50° on the upper section. This face had been entirely exposed ice the year before so it seems that this route should provide a good ice climb most years late in the season. Three hours were sufficient for a solo ascent from the Forbidden Glacier to the summit. Climb completed, August 23.

JOHN TEASDALE, *Unaffiliated*

*Copper Mountain.* The highest (7840 feet) and most southerly peak of the Liberty Bell—Early Winters Spires ridge system, this pleasant but obscure peak may be approached via a cross-country scramble from the North Cross State Highway. From Kangaroo Pass George Mustoe and I traversed across talus and snow to reach the south ridge. After several hundred feet of unstable rock, the ridge becomes a narrow granite arête which is ascended to the south summit. From here the higher north peak is an easy stroll. Class 3-4. 5 hours up. The only previous ascent appeared to be via helicopter in 1962 by a U.S.G.S. party. Peak 7565 ("Pica Peak"), the pyramid prominently visible to the south from the meadows at the head of Early Winters Creek, proved to be an easy ascent by the southeast ridge, with the short final pitch offering the only real climbing.

KREIG MCBRIDE, *Unaffiliated*

*Cutthroat Peak.* In August, Hugh Sincock and I climbed a new route on the southwest side of Cutthroat Peak. This is a clean, winding gully that joins the west ridge just below the summit. It is the second gully right (south) of the ridge. The climbing is easy class 5 on slabs that are generally solid, sometimes flaky, and always shy on cracks. Two much more difficult-looking steps were bypassed on the left. From the ridge crest we joined the original route by climbing to the ledge behind the prominent gendarme via a short wall to its right.

DOUG JONES, *Unaffiliated*