

Nooksack Cirque Icewall. Once described as the "deepest, darkest, coldest hole" in the North Cascades, the Nooksack Cirque offers many short ice climbs of a high standard. In early September, Dusan Jagersky and I climbed the biggest ice face in the cirque: a 1200-foot jewel rising in a concave arc of steepness from 45° to 55°. We had difficult ice climbing in the East Nooksack Glacier just to reach the face's base, about midway along Jagged Ridge from Cloudcap Peak. To gain the face proper, we climbed a 100-foot ice hose, vertical for several feet in its hardest section. We picked an obvious ice rib up the face, one of several rising in parallel lines. Remarkably, the ribs were occasionally bisected by small crevasses which made excellent belay platforms. I was hit on the arm by a falling rock in mid-face, but the ascent was otherwise straightforward front-pointing on good ice. At the top of the wall, the last pitch exceeded 55°; we finished in a narrow, twisting, Eiger-like gully. To get off, we traversed over Shuksan in circuitous fashion to Lake Ann.

JAMES WICKWIRE

Castle Peak, North Face. Castle Peak is located in the Pasayten Wilderness just northeast of Mount Hozomeen. The peak is a scramble on three sides, but its broad north face has route possibilities of 1000 feet on solid, blankish granite. In September Fred Beckey, Phil Leatherman, and I chose a route up a broad blocky buttress on the far right side of the face. Climbing was mainly fourth class with a few fifth-class sections. Grade II.

GREGORY C. MARKOV, *Unaffiliated*

Cathedral Peak, Southwest Ridge. During August a large Commonwealth team consisting of Howie Richardson, Robin Mounsey, Bob Cuthbert, Bruce McPherson and myself made the first ascent of the southwest ridge integrale of this granitic peak. Steep, enjoyable crack climbing intersected by large terraces characterized the climbing. 9 hours, 12 roped pitches, NCCS IV, F8, A2.

DAVID NICOL, *Alpine Climbing Group*

California—Sierra Nevada

Sawtooth Peak, North Face. Because the nearly vertical profile of Sawtooth's north face is very noticeable from the road approaching the Kaweah, then again nearing Mineral King, it seemed quixotic that climbers had not probed its defenses. On September 30, Greg Thomsen and I left our high camp at Columbine Lake, plodded up loose scree in the shadow of a cool morning, then spent until the early afternoon climbing a rather direct route on the precipitous face. Most of the route weaved up a series of steep blocks and cracks, with an occasional brief ledge to