

ordinated feeling went away. By 10:30 we were at Delta Lake. At the base of the ridge we removed skis and immediately plunged into the snow up to our knees. We knew we'd never reach the far side of the Molar Tooth on the first day. The lower section of the ridge was technically easy. With judicious route-finding, the only difficulty was breaking trail. The wind crust was just hard enough to bang shins without supporting weight. When we reached the base of the Molar Tooth at 9:30 P.M., we were ready to make camp. We had only down jackets, a stove and snow shovel for a bivouac. At first light we began climbing the pitch leading to the notch on the south side of the Molar Tooth. Lack of wind and clouds made difficult moves possible barehanded. We wasted a half hour trying to go directly up the ridge from the notch and then rappelled into the couloir. After delightful solo 12-pointing on firm snow and a few moves around the chockstone, we arrived at the notch at 10:30. Dave led for several pitches on the snow-covered slabs above the notch until he ran out of pins while we moved simultaneously behind him. Jock then led up to the traverse around the Second Tower, which was my lead. It presented the most interesting moves of the climb—slabs covered with steep unstable snow, a cornice which had to be chopped through and finally a chimney chocked with ice, which is fourth-class in summer. After going around the chimney, we plowed on up the snowfield. Fortunately the snow seemed stable even though again we broke through to our knees. After interminable labor, we arrived at the summit block and a short pitch put us on the summit at five P.M. A short descent to the south brought us to snow deep enough for a cave. Without sleeping bags there was little sleep as we shifted from position to position, waiting for morning. In the morning wind and snow produced more worry about avalanches on the summit snowfield. However we were only able to create sloughs from the 2 inches of new snow. Except for three rappels, we down-climbed everything, following the remains of our tracks. It was twilight when we reached Beaver Creek.

GEORGE H. LOWE

*Grand Teton, Southeast Chimney.* By taking advantage of an important variation pioneered in 1960 by Lev, Greig, Glosser, and Laing, a new route on the Grand Teton was found by David Lowe and me on August 5. The 1960 variation started from Glencoe Col up toward the face of the first tower of the Underhill Ridge, and then cut right up a series of chimneys to the east of the ridge, instead of left as in the standard (1931) Underhill Ridge route. After about five leads the 1960 party cut back left (south) from under a prominent grey overhang to regain the crest of the ridge just below the final tower. From beneath this same overhang the 1973 party cut horizontally right for 150 feet to the beginning of the southeast chimney which lies at the north edge of the

east face of the Underhill Ridge. The narrow chimney is a significant feature of this side of the mountain, extending for over 300 feet to the vicinity of the notch which separates the last tower on the ridge from the main slabs of the southeast face of the Grand. The first 50 feet up the chimney were strenuous but reasonable to a stance just below the crux, a narrowing of the chimney with two smooth, protruding flakes. Passage of this section was very difficult indeed, since a light snow and rain had wet the rock and there were no holds on the outside smooth and vertical faces of the chimney. The conclusion of this crux pitch was a belay point in the same chimney which now formed the right (north) edge of a slabby friction face. The climb probably should have continued up the chimney, but instead an exploratory traverse was made out onto the slabs, and then back to the right until only 25 feet from the chimney. The next lead regained the chimney and turned up easily for 60 feet until F7 difficulties were encountered, requiring some stemming to reach a belay in a rather inadequate alcove, just below the last steep section of the chimney. The final exciting exit from the top of the chimney involved some very small holds and a beautiful lieback in the crack to which the chimney had dwindled. A short scramble up the east face of the ridge then led to the notch where the usual southeast slabs were followed to the summit. While the technical difficulty of the southeast chimney is comparable to some of the north and west routes on the mountain, the relative ease of escape and the ability to see the approaching weather make this climb a less serious undertaking. The rock is excellent, but the awkwardness and strenuousness of the crux may keep this route from great popularity. III, F8.

LEIGH N. ORTENBURGER

*South Teton, East Snow Couloir.* On August 1, Jim Olson and Tom Watson made the first ascent of this couloir which has been in direct view of two generations of climbers. From the highway somewhat south of east, the prominent snow couloir can be seen to cut directly up the east slopes of the South Teton, ending on the southeast ridge about 300 feet below the summit. From a camp at Snowdrift Lake, Olson and Watson approached the couloir via the large gully separating the South Teton from Matternaught Peak to the large snowfield which abuts the south faces of Gilkey Tower and the Icecream Cone. Turning left (west) from this snowfield, they entered the couloir itself where a total of nine leads of moderate snow climbing were found. About two-thirds of the way up the couloir, a short rock wall capped by a chockstone presented the only rock problem of the route. It was passed on the left to reach the final three, increasingly steep, snow leads to the usually corniced top of the couloir. Some rockfall was encountered in the lower sections of the couloir. II, F5.