

by traversing right, we encountered the crux while ascending the second rock band (loose snow over rock). Above that, a couloir was followed to the summit. Conditions varied from excellent water-ice to unconsolidated snow on rock, at a constant 60° to 70°. Grade III or IV.

GORDY SKOOG

*Dragontail, Northwest Face.* In early April John Wasson and I climbed a route on Dragontail to the right of Serpentine Arête. We started the climb on a thin ice smear, and the next four pitches were on good ice leading up to a big snowfield. At the top of the snowfield we climbed a hard mixed pitch, then up and left to meet Serpentine two mixed pitches from the top. We spent the night on the summit. Grade IV.

TIM WILSON

*Stuart Range.* Several new routes were climbed in the Stuart Range. The west face of Colchuck Balanced Rock (Grade IV, 5.10, A2) was climbed in early August by Mark Twight and Mark Johnston. This steep wall is seen from the Colchuck Lake area. The line follows a vaguely direct line in the center of the face. Mark Twight reports 12 pitches of mostly superb crack climbing. The route turns the huge roof, at half height, to the left (A2 hooks and Friends). Above the roof, a 5.9 hand crack leads to another roof, a hideously loose squeeze chimney and another roof before two easier pitches end on the summit. In early July the prominent pillar to the left of the Beckey-Niccoli route on the northeast face of the false summit on Mount Stuart was climbed by Kit Lewis and me. We spent two days on the climb, climbing a spectacular crack system on the right (north) wall of the pillar. Grade V, 5.10, A1.

JIM NELSON

*Fernow, North Face Ice Apron Variation.* The north face of Fernow was climbed rather indirectly in 1961 by the Prater-Wickwire party, the last 500 feet of the headwall being avoided by a westward traverse. On a cold September 30 Dave Beckstead, Mark Hutson, and I found the ice apron (finger) in good condition as we cramponed to its head. A snow-and-ice gully bore leftward, from where we climbed steep, loose and cold rock to just beneath the summit. By taking the boat up Lake Chelan, the church bus to Holden Village, and a route along the east side of Big Creek, we made the round trip in a comfortable three days.

FRED BECKEY

*Static Slab, Mount Stickney Area.* On May 18 Dave Johnson, Dave Pickard and I made the first ascent of the Static Slab on Static Peak, some two miles north of Mount Stickney. It is an excellent 800- to 1000-foot quartz diorite