

couloir to the upper part of the ridge, then continued on the crest to the summit. An enjoyable ice and rock climb. (Grade II-III.)

LOWELL SKOOG

*Jack Mountain, East Ridge.* On a weekend excursion to Jack Mountain, my brother Carl and I climbed this route. From a high camp below the southeast ridge, a traverse was made across the east glacier to gain the ridge. The climb offered a straightforward line on good rock along the ridge crest. The crux was an obvious step which was passed on the right. The east ridge presents enjoyable scrambling in an alpine setting with tremendous North Cascade vistas. (NCCS III, F3-4.)

GORDY SKOOG, *Unaffiliated*

*Mount Index, Middle-Main Peak Gully.* On January 20, Fred Dunham and I climbed the gully between the Middle and Main Peaks of Mount Index from Lake Serene, south of the South Norwegian Buttress. The climb consisted of several steep steps separated by lower-angled snow-and-ice slopes. The crux of the climb was a seventy-foot vertical and overhanging waterfall about halfway up. We left the town of Index at six A.M. in cold, clear weather and reached the summit of the main peak at 11:30 P.M. in a snow storm. As in every winter gully climb, conditions must be just right. By the time we were descending the east route to Lake Serene, our gully was being raked by avalanches of new snow.

WILLIAM SUMNER

*Mount Stuart, Northwest Couloir.* In early May, Lee Cunningham and I snowshoed once again up Mountaineer Creek. Our objective this trip was the oft-tried couloir between the north ridge and the northwest face routes of Mount Stuart. Our theory was that mid-spring would provide the ideal temperatures to allow ice to build up over the down-sloping slabs at the base of the route. After a cold night on the Ice Cliff Glacier terminal moraine, we skirted the base of the north ridge and ascended the Stuart Glacier, arriving at the start of the technical climbing with a beautiful sunrise. Establishing a belay was difficult due to the featureless rock which characterized the route. All the ice within reach was in reality plastered snow, making a small right-facing corner off to our left the only feasible route. We traded anxious glances, both saying we didn't care who led the first pitch. Lee finally decided the issue by pointing out that I was closer. So I geared up and traversed over to the corner and interrogated the white stuff in the back with a swing of the Bird. "THUNK!". It was good ice! The climbing involved five extended pitches, each consisting of about 50 feet of delicate ice followed by a long steep snowfield of simultaneous climbing to the base of the next ice section. The final pitch, which in summer is an easy scramble on the north ridge route, took on a new dimension with crampons and ice tools. One-and-a-half hours of glissading down the Sherpa Glacier took care of nine hours of climbing up. (NCCS IV, WI4, 5.4.)

PAT MCNERTHNEY, *Icicle Spiders*