

*Perdition Peak, Northeast Rib.* The most dramatic line on Backbone ridge, this spine shoots arrow-straight from the Perdition Glacier to the summit of Perdition Peak. My wife, Stephanie Subak, and I climbed it on July 14. We took the Sibley Creek approach to Marble Creek cirque and continued to a heather camp above Perdition's south col. The next morning we made an easy descent down the Perdition Glacier to the low point on the rib. We started climbing up a chimney left of the crest, passing under a huge block at its top. Then we crossed over the rib to the right, climbing slabs, corners, and a steep crack (5.7) for two leads to a belay perch on a sub-crest right of the main crest. After an exposed traverse to easier ground on the right, we climbed up and left to the main crest and followed it for several easy, enjoyable pitches. A steep chimney system about 50 feet right of the rib led us to the major step two-thirds of the way up the route. We traversed right to a dihedral system (a logical route), but instead of following it, continued up and right on slabs before working up and gradually left again for several class 4 leads to the summit. We descended the south ridge and trudged out, reaching the car after midnight. A fine route, but a bit remote for a weekend. (III, 5.7.)

LOWELL SKOOG

*Perdition Peak, North Ridge.* From the distance, this appeared as a clean line, but close inspection revealed the northeast rib to be a better choice. On August 13 Steve Ollila and I discovered this as we descended from a low point on the northeast rib to the northeast pocket glacier. On gaining the north ridge we encountered the crux during the second lead as a short 5.6 open-book. From there on, the climbing was on grassy ledges on the face and solid rock near the crest. We followed the crest to just beneath the northwest summit ridge. We traversed below this ridge to the summit. (III, 5.6.) Ours was the third ascent of Perdition, the second being noted above.

GORDY SKOOG

*Bear Mountain, North Buttress, First Free Ascent.* On July 20 and 21, Lowell Skoog and I climbed the north buttress of Bear Mountain. We followed the original ascent route, with the exception of the chimney, which we bypassed on the right. In recent years, perhaps no other climb in the Cascades has so much notoriety surrounding it. The setting is wilderness; the story in Beckey's *Challenge* is terrifying. Alan Kearney's description of the direct route reinforces the ominous nature of climbing on Bear Mountain. Intrigued by its reputation, we made the fourth ascent. At the start of the hard climbing we were confused by the transition between the ramp and the crest. The right side of the crest is broken and loose. On the left side, there are three crack and gully systems which lead from the ramp to the crest. The middle one is apparently the most straightforward, being the one used in our ascent, and in the first ascent. We were pleased to be done with the most serious part of the route. Climbing the narrow, exposed crest on excellent rock was exhilarating. The crest was so narrow, that